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Plastic Film Bag Ban Passed, To Take Effect Jan. 1, 2024

by Deb Daniel and Anna Bedford-Dillow

At the May 22 Greenbelt City Council meeting, council considered, discussed and ultimately adopted a single-use plastic bag ban and required retail establishments to charge at least 10 cents for each paper bag provided to customers, with a penalty for violation. The ordinance will go into effect on January 1, 2024.

Councilmember Kristen Weaver spoke about how College Park has already approved a similar ordinance and that Prince George's County is considering similar legislation at the county level. She thought it would be advantageous to be on the record with an ordinance limiting single-use plastic bag distribution in Greenbelt.

Definitions

Weaver proposed a friendly amendment to eliminate the word "reusable" from the legislation where it prohibits businesses from providing plastic or reusable bags free of charge. Businesses should be able to give out free reusable bags to customers if they would like to, so that the cost for bags would apply to paper ones not plastic. The amendment passed.

The only plastic bags that would be eliminated by this ordinance are the thin film plastic bags, not reusable plastic bags. Resident Lore Rosenthal noted that the city gave out reusable bags at one point that were made entirely of plastic and many reusable bags are made from plastic. A reusable bag is one that has a stitched handle. Resident Bill Orleans asked the city to research the reusable bags they would use. He supports a prohibition on single use plastic bags but also reusable plastic bags and he criticized commercial plastic products.

Determining Cost

Councilmember Ric Gordon suggested charging only 5 cents for paper bags rather than 10 cents as proposed. Gordon also suggested a period when the city might give free reusable bags to start the transition from plastic.

Weaver noted that Montgomery County and Baltimore had 5-cent bag charges but that their ordinances were from several years ago. D.C. charges a 5-cent tax that goes

See **BAG BAN**, page 12

Phyllis Gillens, Beloved Magnolia Principal, Retires after 25 Years

by Jenni Pompi



PHOTO BY MAURICE WATKINS

Dr. Gillens poses with former students.

There's a certain vibe at Magnolia Elementary School, located in Lanham near Doctors Community Hospital, and serving neighboring Greenbelt residents. The hallways are bright and sunny, the students are cheerful in their canary yellow polos, the staff feel engaged and dedicated. The

school feels vibrant and vital, and if you ask members of the school community, that vibe comes from the enthusiasm and encouragement of Magnolia Elementary Principal Dr. Phyllis L. Gillens who will be retiring at the end of this school year.

Gillens has spent the past 26 years building a culture and community at her school in which students are cherished, staff are valued and everyone strives to be extraordinary. On Friday, May 26 that community surprised her with a heartfelt ceremony honoring her service and accomplishments.

One need look no further than the room full of parents, teachers and students at her celebration – current and former – to understand how many lives she's touched over the course of her career at Magnolia.

Gillens has spent her entire adult life as an educator. She began her career in South Carolina, where she earned a bachelor's degree in science and special education at South Carolina State University. After moving to Maryland, she taught special education before

See **GILLENS**, page 7

Field Trips Bring Students To Old Greenbelt Theatre

by Melissa Sites

The Roosevelt Center was filled with children playing and eating picnic lunches together, as the Old Greenbelt Theatre welcomed nearly 100 Greenbelt Elementary School third-graders last week. Since the pandemic, the theater has provided field trips to Greenbelt Elementary grade-level groups including third-, fourth- and fifth-graders, two Springhill Lake groups of mixed ages and a group from Eleanor Roosevelt High School (ERHS).

The theater's Stephenie Arcido, director of operations, and Lauren Rankel, education coordinator, explained the value of field trips: "It's a very different experience to leave the classroom and participate in an activity. Students participate in the community and pay attention in a different way. They interact differently walking here through the neighborhood." One student commented, "It was worth it, walking for 30 minutes and then coming in here

to relax."

Arcido pointed out that Creative Kids Camp and Camp Pine Tree kids visit the theater, and there are opportunities on Thursdays during the summer to come and see free animated films. "This is our community and the Roosevelt Center is also yours," she told the kids.

The historic cinema is a unique learning environment, a "light history lesson" because its restored appearance is so similar to how it looked in 1939. Director Caitlin McGrath plans to add a Greenbelt history timeline to the theater's media lab, as well as wayfinder information in conjunction with the

See **FIELD TRIPS**, page 4

What Goes On

Monday, June 5

7:30 p.m., City Council Meeting: Budget Adoption, Municipal Building

Wednesday, June 7

7:30 p.m., Council Worksession: WMATA Project Update on Metro's Better Bus Network Redesign, Municipal Building

See the city ad on page 5 or the meetings calendar at greenbeltnmd.gov for more information.



PHOTO BY MELISSA SITES

Local students visit the Old Greenbelt Theatre.

Council Hears ARPA Update, Seeks More Grant Applicants

by Anna Bedford-Dillow

On August 8 and September 27, 2022, Greenbelt City Council approved the allocation of \$5.8 million in American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds to be used toward the development of 14 grant and assistance programs to help Greenbelt families, small businesses and nonprofit organizations still recovering from the negative impacts of the Covid-19 pandemic. On Tuesday, April 22, Interim Assistant City Manager Debi Sandlin provided an update on the use of funds to date and answered questions from council.

The grant and assistance programs created with the \$5.8 million in ARPA funds include: Childcare Voucher Assistance, Business Capital Infrastructure Grant, Business Improvement Recovery Fund Round III, Education Scholarship Grant, Greenbelt



PHOTO BY ANNA BEDFORD-DILLOW

Debi Sandlin, Interim Assistant City Manager, gives an update on ARPA programs to date.

Homes, Inc. (GHI) First-Time Homebuyers Mortgage Assistance Grant, Greenbelt First-Time Homebuyers Mortgage Assistance Grant, Healthcare Voucher Program, Nonprofit Grants, Micro Grants, Tree Canopy Grants, Workforce Development Scholarship program, HOA/Rental & Utility Assistance, Mortgage/HOA/Co-op Fee Assistance and

See **ARPA**, page 13

Letters to the Editor

Is Process Flawed?

Peggy Higgins laid out an argument in the News Review that the failure of her petition to stop a charter change (regarding city manager residence requirements) is a sign that the petition process is flawed. I admire Higgins’s passion and willingness to hit the streets to get signatures. However, she describes the petition as “overwhelmingly popular.” That’s just not backed up by the evidence.

She claims Greenbelters are “universally” in support of the issue, again without more than anecdotal evidence. She attributes only getting about 30 percent of voter signatures to the small size of the campaigning group, but if it was so popular, why couldn’t they get more people involved? By Higgins’s own admission, not even everyone who signed felt strongly that Greenbelt residency is important; the conflation of process (who should make this decision) and issue (what residency requirement should there be) certainly watered down the appeal. This issue has been all over the News Review and the Facebook groups for weeks now. So lack of awareness isn’t the issue either.

Bottom line, I just don’t think the failure of this petition reveals any flaw in the petition process. It merely shows that the campaigning group failed to generate enough support for their petition. If the petition process does need to be reformed, let’s hear more about how other cities approach the issue or use actual data and analysis to understand if the current petition system is working as it should.

Hannah Hethmon

Single Issue Referendums?

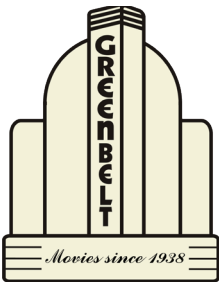
I respectfully propose Peggy Higgins’s opinion piece in last week’s News Review argues against itself. Running government with single-issue referendums inherently promotes populist conspiracies that ignore the problems they cause.

The opinion piece, and stories from signature-seekers, presume mandating city manager residency is separate from hiring. Of course, if one of several otherwise-identical candidates is a Greenbelt resident, any sensible person would choose the resident. But that’s seldom the choice available: instead, each candidate has strengths and weaknesses.

We elect council to choose the best candidate available for the salary we offer.

Does anyone remember Brexit? Pro-Brexit campaigners presented a one-sided view ignoring all downsides. This resulted in massive unintended negative consequences. California’s referendums cause similar problems. Greenbelt would suffer by considering only one side of a complex decision and ignoring obvious

See **LETTERS**, page 6



Old Greenbelt Theatre
129 Centerway
301-329-2034
www.greenbelttheatre.org

Members Always \$6.50!
Member kids are always FREE!

Adults \$9, Kids \$6,
Senior/Student/Military \$8

All shows before 5 PM:
Adults \$7, Kids \$5

OC = Open Captions
CC = Closed Captions
DVS = Descriptive Video Service

SHOWTIMES:
JUNE 2ND - JUNE 8TH

Screen 1 - Main Auditorium

The Starling Girl (R) (CC)
(DVS) (2023) (116 mins)

Fri. 7:15 PM
Sat. 5:00 PM
Sun. 2:30 PM (OC), 5:15 PM
Mon. 4:30 PM
Tues. 7:15 PM
Wed. 5:00 PM
Thurs. 5:30 PM

L'immensità (NR) (CC)
(DVS) (2023) (97 mins)
Italian with English subtitles

Fri. 5:00 PM
Sat. 7:30 PM
Sun. 5:15 PM
Mon. 5:00 PM **Screen 2**
Tues. 5:00 PM
Wed. 7:30 PM
Thurs. 5:45 PM **Screen 2**

From Here to Eternity (NR)
(1953) (118 mins)
Free Monday Matinee!

Mon. 1:00 PM
Thurs. 8:00 PM

Screen 2 - The Screening Room

You Hurt My Feelings (R)
(CC) (DVS) (2023) (93 mins)

Fri. 5:15 PM, 7:30 PM
Sat. 5:15 PM, 7:45 PM
Sun. 2:45 PM, 5:00 PM
Mon. 2:45 PM (OC)
Tues. 7:00 PM
Wed. 7:15 PM
Thurs. 8:15 PM



SEEN BY THE SIDE OF THE
GREENBELT ROAD OVERPASS.

Letters Policy

Deadline for letters is 6 p.m. Monday. Submission does not guarantee publication. Letters should be no longer than 300 words (shorter letters are more likely to be published).

Letters may be edited for clarity, grammar, civility and space constraints. The News Review may add a comment from the editor if deemed necessary.

All letters must include the letter writer's name, physical address, and telephone number. Only the name will be published; the News Review will consider requests for the name to be withheld.



On Screen at Old Greenbelt Theatre

The Starling Girl

Seventeen-year-old Jem Starling (Eliza Scanlen) struggles to define her place within her fundamentalist Christian community in rural Kentucky. Even her greatest joy of dancing with the church group is tempered by worry that her actions are sinful and she is caught between a burgeoning awareness of her own sexuality and her religious devotion. With the return of Owen (Lewis Pullman), an enigmatic youth pastor, Jem soon finds herself attracted to his worldliness and charm. Slowly, he draws her into a dangerous relationship that could upend their entire community. Said critic Monica Castillo of RogerEbert.com, “The Starling Girl lives and breathes through Scanlen’s stellar performance.”

L’immensità

Rome, 1970s: a world which straddles new neighborhoods being created, TV variety shows still in black and white, societal advances and family models that now seem outdated. Clara (Penelope Cruz) and Felice (Vincenzo Amato) have just moved into a new apartment. Their marriage has reached a point of no return: they no longer love each other, but they can't seem to leave each other either. Their children are the only thing that keeps them together, the same children who are the syphon for all of Clara’s dreams of freedom. Adriana, the eldest, has just turned 12: her mother’s mood swings and the growing tensions between her parents play out before her watchful gaze. Adriana is in a state of refusal of her name and her identity, and her dogged pursuit of trying to convince everyone that she is a boy brings the already fragile stability of her family to the breaking point. As the children search around them for guidance – be it a voice from above or a song on the TV – everything changes, both inside and outside of themselves.

You Hurt My Feelings

Beth (Julia Louis-Dreyfus), a popular writer, and her husband Don (Tobias Menzies), a well-liked teacher, share the kind of relationship that truly, seriously cannot be real: that is, they’re actually in love. Even after decades of marriage, parenting and their own successful careers, their physical spark has somehow not diminished; in fact, they seem to relish the opportunity to share a single ice cream cone and drive others – including their son, Charlie – mad. Should it come as a surprise then that his own marriage is in crisis? But when Beth discovers that Don has been untruthful to her about his opinion of her work for years, her world comes crashing down. Has their whole relationship been one Big Fat Lie?

From Here to Eternity

At an Army barracks in Hawaii in the days preceding the attack on Pearl Harbor, lone-wolf soldier and boxing champion “Prew” Prewitt (Montgomery Clift) refuses to box, preferring to play the bugle instead. Hard-hearted Capt. Holmes (Philip Ober) subjects Prew to a grueling series of punishments while, unknown to Holmes, the gruff but fair Sgt. Warden (Burt Lancaster) engages in a clandestine affair with the captain’s mistreated wife (Deborah Kerr). The film won eight Academy Awards, including Best Picture.

Greenbelt News Review

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PUBLICATION DEADLINES:

- Monday 2 p.m. Articles/photos over 700 words, Display Ads (not camera ready).
- Monday 6 p.m. All Letters to the Editor (300 word limit).
- Tuesday 2 p.m. Articles/photos under 700 words, photographs not associated with a story.
- Tuesday 6 p.m. Classified Ads and camera-ready display ads.
- Email submission is available. Hardcopy submissions (delivered by respective deadline) may be mailed to the address above or left in the Co-op grocery store drop box or GNR external office door mail slot, as shown below.
- Payment must accompany ads except by prior arrangement

MAIL SUBSCRIPTION: \$55/year

Greenbelt Community Center at 15 Crescent Rd.
OFFICE HOURS: Monday 2 - 4 p.m., Tuesday 2 - 4, 6 - 8 p.m.
Office is currently closed to the public. Please phone or email.
GNR external office door mail slot is located up a few stairs 25 yards left of the Community Center’s east door near the municipal building.

Community Events

Greenbelt Park Movie Sat., June 3 Is Coco

Enjoy the movie Coco under the stars at the Sweetgum Picnic Area in Greenbelt Park on Saturday, June 3 at 8 p.m. Coco is Disney/Pixar’s vibrant tale of family, fun and adventure. An aspiring young musician named Miguel embarks on an extraordinary journey to the magical land of his ancestors. There, the charming trickster Hector becomes an unexpected friend who helps Miguel uncover the mysteries behind his family’s stories and traditions. There is a food truck expected from 6 to 9 p.m. For more information, call 301-344-3944 or check the park’s website at nps.gov/gree.

Celebrate National Trails Day at Park

Celebrate National Trails Day at Greenbelt Park on Saturday, June 3. Volunteer and help spread material on the Azalea Trail. Work starts at 9 a.m. at the Sweetgum Picnic Area and lasts until noon. Sign up at nps.gov/gree. Walk a trail, discover nature and use the park to get healthier. The best trails to access are the Azalea (1.2 miles) and the Perimeter Trail (5.2 miles).

National Trails Day is the only nationally coordinated event designed to unite all muscle-powered trail activities with the goal of connecting more people to trails. Every trail promises adventure and has a story to share with any person willing to discover it. Each year, on the first Saturday of June, the American Hiking Society and the trails community invite Americans of all ages and abilities to find their own adventure and discover their unique story at one of the thousands of events hosted throughout the country.

More Community Events are located throughout the paper.

Support PORCH

Greenbelt PORCH is continuing its program to collect food in the month of June as scheduled below:

Sunday, June 11. By 11 a.m. at 1-8 Courts Ridge, 1-8 Courts Crescent and 1-2 Courts Westway
Sunday, June 18. By 4 p.m. for Boxwood Village

Sunday, June 25. By 4 p.m. for 9 and 12 Courts and 11 and 13 Courts Ridge Road, by 5 p.m. for Lakeside Drive

14 and 15 Courts Laurel Hill and P.A.L. (PORCH at large) members: on vacation for June.

Leave donations of nonperishables and hygiene products by the front door marked RUAK or PORCH visible from the street. Ensure donated items have not expired.

Volunteers who would like to expand Greenbelt PORCH to additional neighborhoods in Greenbelt are always welcome; especially needed are coordinators in the Greenbelt East area. Anyone with questions or who is interested in being a volunteer or starting a new neighborhood for monthly food collection with Greenbelt PORCH, email Robert Goldberg-Strassler at spreadruak@gmail.com.

Arts Advisory Board To Meet Tuesday

The Greenbelt Arts Advisory Board will meet on Tuesday, June 6, at 7 p.m. in the Community Center, Room 114. Greenbelt citizens who may be interested in joining the board are encouraged to attend. Learn about board activities such as: planning and hosting arts networking events and arts organization open houses; meeting with Greenbelt arts groups to discuss their plans and requests for city support and offering input on public art projects and policy matters as they arise. RSVP by emailing alarsen@greenbeltmd.gov.

Greenbelt Pride Week Activities



Thursday, June 1, 4 p.m., Pride Flag Raising Ceremony at Municipal Building Flag Pole.
Saturday, June 3, 10:20 a.m., parade march gathering starts at the 5 Court Gardenway Playground.
10:30 a.m., Remarks from Brooke Lierman
11 a.m., Step off toward Roosevelt Center
Noon, Pride Fest Begins
4 to 11 p.m., Pride Inside at New Deal Café

Wednesday Lunch At the New Deal Café

Telecommuters, retirees and all others are invited each Wednesday this summer for lunch at the New Deal Café, 113 Centerway. Interested in meeting new people, building community and supporting your Café? Join us from noon to 1 p.m. For questions contact rspeterson1@gmail.com.

CHEARS Offers Poetry in the Garden

A Chesapeake Education, Arts and Research Society (CHEARS) poetry reading event will take place from 3 to 5 p.m. on Sunday, June 4 in Schrom Hills Park. Bring your poem to read or just enjoy listening to others. Contact Effie Levner, 443-415-1053.

Artful Afternoon: Create Paintings

The Greenbelt Recreation Arts Program invites guests of all ages and experience levels to a painting party on the Community Center front lawn. This free Artful Afternoon activity will take place on Sunday, June 4 led by local artist Racquel Keller. There will be two seatings: from 11 a.m. to noon and noon to 1 p.m. Advance registration is recommended; sign up online at <https://bit.ly/44RKbRy>. Walk-ins will also be welcome as space allows.

Art materials will be provided. Painting clothes are recommended. If desired, bring a picnic lunch to enjoy on the lawn.

Greenbelt’s arts programs are supported in part by a grant from the Maryland State Arts Council. For additional program information, visit greenbeltmd.gov/arts.



Craft Fair on July 22

The Greenbelt Volunteer Fire Department and Rescue Squad and its Ladies Auxiliary invites the community to Be Jolly in July with a vendor show at the firehouse on Saturday, July 22 from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Come find handcrafted items, decorations, gifts, crafts and more. Food and drinks will be sold.

Contact Kim Lewis at 240-304-8776 or firemama_35@msn.com for vendor space information.

Recycle Used Plant Pots

Donate used plastic plant pots and flats to GHI’s volunteer-run native plant nursery and support the GHI Woodlands Committee in growing thousands of wildflowers for local common spaces. Bring small and large plastic pots and rectangular flats to a drop-off box on the Co-op Supermarket ramp or the drop-off box at 8 Court Laurel Hill Road.

At the Library

Regular hours at the Greenbelt Library are Mondays, Thursdays and Fridays, 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.; Tuesdays and Wednesdays, noon to 8 p.m.; Saturdays, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.; and Sundays, 1 to 5 p.m. In case of inclement weather or an emergency, real-time updates to the Greenbelt Library’s schedule are posted at pgcmls.info/alerts.

Storytimes
Friday, June 2, 11:15 a.m., ages 2 to 3. Register at pgcmls.info/event/8384066.

Monday, June 5, 10:15 a.m., ages newborn to 2. Register at pgcmls.info/event/8384032.

Tuesday, June 6, 6:30 p.m., ages 3 to 5. Register at pgcmls.info/event/8390398.

Wednesday, June 7, 6:30 p.m., ages newborn to 3. Register at pgcmls.info/event/8390621.

Summer Kickoff
Monday, June 5, 2 to 4 p.m., all ages. Drop by to register and enjoy other activities and prizes (while supplies last).

Legal Assistance
Thursday, June 1, noon to 2 p.m., adults. Free one-on-one legal services on a variety of civil issues – on a first-come, first-served basis to financially eligible individuals. Lawyer in the Library provides free law services and legal advice related to expungements, child custody and support, housing, debt collection, bankruptcy, landlord/tenants, government benefits, veterans benefits and unemployment benefits.

Registration Open For Summer Art Classes

Registration is now open for all of Greenbelt Recreation’s summer arts classes. From ceramics and painting, to fused glass and sewing, a large range of media and creative experiences are available for all ages. Full class listings and registration information are posted at greenbeltmd.gov/arts.

The Children’s Hour

Written by Lillian Hellman

Directed by
Pauline Griller-Mitchell
and John Bartkowiak

GREENBELT ARTS CENTER

May 19 - June 3, 2023

Fridays and Saturdays at 8pm
Sundays at 2pm

Tickets \$12 - \$24

For tickets call (301) 441-8770
or visit greenbeltartscenter.org

Coming soon :
The Patchwork
Girl of Oz

“Greenbelt Arts Center policy requires that all audience members be fully masked for all performances.”

Greenbelt Access Television

June 3, Sat - June 9, Fri
Verizon FIOS Channel 19 • Comcast 77
(School Programming on Your Cable Guide)
Streaming on www.greenbeltaccessstv.org

THIS WEEK on GATe • Your Community Access Station
Featured Film (9am, 3pm, and 8pm)
Charade (1963)
Starring Audrey Hepburn and Cary Grant, this delightful film is an astoundingly organic blend of romance, screwball comedy, and mystery!
Music from the New Deal Cafe (2pm, 10pm)
Dirty Soul
This band pays heavy homage to vintage Southern soul, delivering a high-energy, danceable set, rich with swampy rhythm and blues and powerful vocals.

All this and more on the GATe channel this week! Check [greenbeltaccessstv.org](https://www.greenbeltaccessstv.org) for the full broadcast schedule, and visit [Greenbelt Access Television on YouTube](https://www.youtube.com/gatechannel) for new video productions.

This Week at the New Deal Café

SUPPORT Greenbelt’s only venue with BOTH dinner AND a show!

RESERVATIONS: 301-474-5642

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Nourished by the Greenbelt Co-op

113 Centerway, Roosevelt Center, Greenbelt, MD
Hours: Monday – Thursday 8am – 9pm; Friday/Saturday 8am – midnight; Sunday 9am – 9pm

TH 6/1	FRI 6/2	SAT 6/3	SUN 6/4	
Wolf’s Thursday Blues Show & Sit-in Jam 6:30-10pm With Linwood Taylor!	Piano Stylings of Peter Reppert, 6-7:30p The Paulverizers 8-11pm Hard drivin’ blues!	2nd Annual Pride Fest* 1-4pm Strangers That Click & Ammonite* 4-11p	FONDCA Arts Reception* 1-3pm THIS COULD GO BOOM!* 5:30-8pm Incredible monthly showcase!	
MON 6/5	TUES 6/6	WED 6/7	TH 6/8	MON - FRI
Monday Mauveness Karaoke Night 6-9pm Hosted by Mike Bennett	S.A.W. Open Mic hosted by Lynn Holyfield 7-9pm Sign-ins at 6:30pm	The Campfire Sessions 7-9pm Monthly “listening room”	Susan Jones Jazz Quartet 7-9pm Violin led jazz group playing eclectic mix	Happy Hour 4-7pm \$1.00 off beer and wine

Join or renew your membership. Go to www.newdealcafe.com, click on “ABOUT”, then “BECOME A MEMBER OR RENEW.”
*For more information on these events, visit the **NDC CALENDAR** page on our website.
FUNDING FOR THESE ADS COURTESY OF A GENEROUS DONOR TO THE NEW DEAL CAFE.

FIELD TRIPS continued from page 1

Greenbelt Museum, so that folks who visit the theater can then find their way to other historic sites around Greenbelt. Staff are also developing a scavenger hunt to engage Greenbelt Elementary students as they encounter the tunnel under Hillside Road, Firefly Sanctuary, Stream Valley Park, volunteer fire department, tennis courts, Braden Field and much more.

Greenbelt Elementary third-graders watched Disney Nature: Dolphins. Disney provides a prepared curriculum and offers films about pollinators, life cycles and other topics that match up with the school’s curriculum. When Springhill Lake Elementary School students visited the theater at the beginning of May, they chose to watch Minions as a behavior award. “They saved their points and voted to choose the movie,” Arcido pointed out.

Ninety ERHS juniors came to watch Just Mercy, based on

Multifaith Contemplatives

The Greenbelt Multifaith Contemplatives will consider and practice centering prayer at the first Wednesday meeting on June 7 on Zoom. The presentation and practice of centering prayer is based upon the classical presentation of Centering Prayer by Thomas Keating (contemplativeoutreach.org). Contact Michael Brown at michael_j_brown1@msn.com for the link and details.



Dr. Aprille Ericsson-Jackson of Goddard speaks to Greenbelt Elementary fifth-graders after they watched Hidden Figures at the Old Greenbelt Theatre in May.

PHOTO BY MELISSA SITES

the 2014 non-fiction book by Bryan Stevenson, founder of the Equal Justice Initiative. “The ability to watch the full movie without interruption and process it together afterwards is a better experience overall. I’m hoping to do this again in the future with other books,” ERHS English teacher Abigail Holtz commented. “There is inherently more buy-in in the theater,” added teacher Amie Littman.

Theater staff organized a Q&A with speaker Alexander Campbell II, a former ERHS student who is part of several different networks seeking justice for incarcerated and returning citizens. Rankel said, “We have received a gift today to be here in community together, to hear Mr. Campbell vulnerably and honestly share his experience. I hope this stays with you for a long time.”

“This is the best school trip ever,” one teacher was overheard to say.



PFC Daniel Sandoval

PHOTO COURTESY GREENBELT POLICE



Congratulations to: Erica Johnson, who on Friday, May 19, came in second to a seven-time winner on Jeopardy. She was one of the few contestants to make a run against him.

Officer Daniel Sandoval on his promotion to Police Officer First Class (PFC). PFC Sandoval has been serving with the Greenbelt Police Department since 2020.

Jackson David Tuthill, the 37th recipient of the annual David Craig Scholarship. Tuthill, a Lakeside neighbor, Eleanor Roosevelt student, St. Hugh’s parishioner and third-generation Greenbelter, will attend Ohio University.

Send details of your news to editor@greenbeltnewsreview.com.

Free Jazz Concert

Free concert by the Susan Jones Jazz quartet at Lake Artemesia on Thursday, June 1, 6 to 8 p.m. Bring something to sit on. This group has played at the Greenman Festival, Greenbelt Jazz Festival and the New Deal Café, where they will also play on Thursday, June 8.



Mowatt Memorial United Methodist Church

40 Ridge Road, Greenbelt

Open hearts, Open minds, Open doors

Find us on [facebook.com/mowattumc](https://www.facebook.com/mowattumc)

301-474-9410

Pastor Evelyn Romero

In-Person Worship Service 9:30 a.m.

Come as you are

Mishkan Torah Congregation

10 Ridge Road, Greenbelt, MD 20770
Rabbi Saul Oresky, Cantor Phil Greenfield

An unpretentious, historic, welcoming, liberal, egalitarian synagogue that respects tradition and becomes your extended family in the 21st century.

Friday evening services at 8:00pm
Saturday morning services at 10:00am
Offering hybrid services, online and in-person activities
For further information, call (301) 474-4223 www.mishkantorah.org
Affiliated with these movements: Conservative and Reconstructing Judaism

Paint Branch Unitarian Universalist Church

3215 Powder Mill Road, Adelphi
Phone: 301-937-3666 www.pbuuc.org

Welcomes you to our open, nurturing community

June 4 at 3 p.m.

Our Living Tradition

Rev. Ann Kadlecik with Liturgist Elizabeth Porter

What does it mean to be people of a living tradition? We’ll explore this question on this 100th anniversary of the first flower celebration, in Prague. If you can, please bring a flower to share, and you will receive a different flower to take away with you.

Streaming to our Facebook page, on Zoom and in person at 3:00 at: University Christian Church, 6800 Adelphi Road, Hyattsville, MD

St. John's Episcopal/Anglican Church

11040 Baltimore Avenue Beltsville, MD 20704
301-937-4292 www.saintjohnsbeltsville.org

The Reverend Joseph M. Constant, Rector

Join us for In-Person Worship every Sunday at 10 AM
Youth Sunday School 11:15 AM

To view services online:

Go to <https://www.facebook.com/StJohnsZionParish/Live/>
Other services online via Zoom: Wednesday Noonday;
Thursday Bible Study and Compline 7 PM via Zoom

Please contact the church office if you are interested in any of these resources.

Our Mission: To share God’s love with everyone to bring hope and change lives.

“Wealth must serve humanity.”
– Bahá’í International Community



Greenbelt Bahá’í Community

www.greenbeltbahais.org

The Bible Says...

“A new commandment I (Jesus) give to you,
that you love one another,
even as I have loved you,
that you also love one another.”
John 13:34



IN PERSON Sunday Worship Services
10a-11:15a @ Greenbelt Elementary School

MCFcc.org

Greenbelt Community Church

One Hillside Road

We are an Open and Affirming Church

UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

Join Us Sunday 10:15 AM for Worship and Church School

www.facebook.com/GCCUCCMD
www.greenbeltcommunitychurch.org

ST. HUGH OF GRENOBLE CATHOLIC CHURCH

- Daily Mass: Mon-Fri 7:15am*, Sat 9am*
- Sunday Mass:
 - Sat vigil 5pm*
 - Sun 8am, 9:30am, 11am
- Confessions Saturday 3pm – 4pm.
Masks for the unvaccinated encouraged.

*Live streamed on Facebook and available on our YouTube page later.

CELEBRATE WITH US

135 Crescent Rd.

www.sthughofgrenoble.org



CATHOLIC COMMUNITY of GREENBELT

MASS

Sundays 10:00 a.m.
City Council Room
25 Crescent Road

ALL ARE WELCOME!

OR - Join us on ZOOM!

For ZOOM link:

FDeBernardo@aol.com

Greenbelt BAPTIST CHURCH

Christ-centered
Biblical
& Reformed

Sunday Morning Worship 10:30am

Sunday School 9:15am

Wednesday Night Bible Study 7:00pm

101 Greenhill Rd. Greenbelt, MD
www.greenbeltbaptist.org





City Information & Events

The strength of Greenbelt is diverse people living together in a spirit of cooperation. We celebrate all people. By sharing together all are enriched. We strive to be a respectful, welcoming community that is open, accessible, safe and fair.

GREENBELT CITY CALENDAR

Be sure to check out the City calendar for all up to date events at greenbeltmtd.gov/calendar



GREENBELT CITY COUNCIL - REGULAR MEETING

Monday, June 5, 2023 at 7:30 pm

ORGANIZATION

Call to Order
Roll Call
Meditation and Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag
Petitions and Requests
Consent Agenda - Approval of Staff Recommendations (Items on the Consent Agenda [marked by *] will be approved as recommended by staff, subject to removal from the Consent Agenda by Council.)
Approval of Agenda and Additions

COMMUNICATIONS

Presentations
- **Promotion: Deputy Chief Timothy White**
- **Chesapeake Bay Awareness Week**
- **Peace Month Proclamation**
- **Pride Month Proclamation**
* **Minutes of Council Meetings**
- **Statement of Record - May 10, 2023**
- **Statement of Record - May 11, 2023**
- **Statement of Record - May 13, 2023**
- **Administrative Reports**
* **Committee Reports**

LEGISLATION

- **FY 2024 Budget Adoption**
- **An Ordinance to Adopt the General Fund, Building Capital Reserve Fund, Cemetery Fund, Debt Service Fund, Replacement Fund, Special Project Fund, Green Ridge House Fund, Capital Projects Fund, Community Development Block Grant Fund, and Greenbelt West Infrastructure Fund Budgets for the City of Greenbelt, Maryland, to Appropriate Funds and Establish Real Estate and Personal Property Tax Rates for the Fiscal Year 2024 Beginning July 1, 2023 and including June 30, 2024**
- **1st Reading, Suspension of Rules - 2nd Reading, Adoption**

OTHER BUSINESS

- FY 2024 Program Open Space Annual Program
- Council Activities
- Council Reports
* Meetings
* Stakeholders

In advance, the hearing impaired is advised to use MD RELAY at 711 to submit your questions/comments or contact the City Clerk at (301) 474-8000 or email banderson@greenbeltmtd.gov.

MEETINGS FOR JUNE 5 - 9

Monday, June 5 at 7:30, **REGULAR MEETING - BUDGET ADOPTION**

Tuesday, June 6 at 7 pm, **ARTS ADVISORY BOARD**, *On the Agenda: Approval of April & May Minutes, Q&A for Prospective Members, Plan for Arts Crawl, Plan July Meeting, Review Results of Survey Distributed at Arts Mixer, Adjourn*

Wednesday, June 7 at 7:30 pm, **WORK SESSION - WMATA PROJECT UPDATE ON METRO'S BETTER BUS NETWORK REDESIGN**

In advance, the hearing impaired is advised to use MD RELAY at 711 to submit your questions/comments or contact the City Clerk at (301) 474-8000 or email banderson@greenbeltmtd.gov. This schedule is subject to change. For confirmation that a meeting is being held call (301) 474-8000. For information on public participation for the meetings above, visit the meetings calendar at greenbeltmtd.gov.

COMMITTEES & BOARDS VACANCIES:

- Advisory Committee on Education
- Advisory Planning Board
- Arts Advisory Board
- Board of Elections
- Community Relations Advisory Board
- Employee Relations Board
- Forest Preserve Advisory Board
- Greenbelt Advisory Committee on Environmental Sustainability
- Park and Recreation Advisory Board
- Senior Citizens Advisory Committee
- Youth Advisory Committee

FOR MORE INFORMATION, CALL (301) 474-8000.

ENGAGE GREENBELT

Your website for all of **Greenbelt's ARPA projects & grants**, including:

- Greenbelt Education Scholarship Grant
- Homebuyer Grant Program
- Tree Canopy Grant
- Micro Grant
- Business Improvement Recover Fund, Round III
- Business Capital Infrastructure Grant program

View all grant programs at a glance at www.engagegreenbelt.org/grants
View the most recently updated ARPA programs by visiting www.engagegreenbelt.org/updates

For all up-to-date ARPA program information including project selection, project updates, department information, and more, visit www.engagegreenbelt.org.

SATURDAY JUNE 3 & SUNDAY JUNE 4

GREENBELT DAY Weekend

SATURDAY, JUNE 3

Greenbelt Pride Fest, 10 am - 3 pm, Roosevelt Center

Come celebrate the start of Pride Month and all who made history and did it with pride from LGBTQIA+ Community. Pride Fest returns this year alongside Greenbelt's first Pride March! For more information visit www.greenbeltmtd.gov/recreation.

Pet Expo Block Party, 11 am - 3 pm, Greenbelt Dog Park

Informational booths, rabies & microchip clinics, demonstrations, refreshments, & more! Bring your pets and enjoy the day.
Call (301) 474-6124 for information.

Not For Seniors Only: Fight Fraud & Scams, 1 - 3 pm, Community Center Multipurpose Room

Fight Fraud & Scams with the AARP Fraud Watch Network. Fraud prevention presentations to safeguard you against identity theft and fraud. Held in the Community Center Multipurpose Room. Register by calling (240) 542-2056.

Greenbelt Youth Baseball Little League Games, 9 am - 12 pm

9 am, Braden Field #3: Tball Game
9 am, McDonald Field: Greenbelt Rockies vs Greenbelt Red Sox
11 am, Braden Field #3: Greenbelt Blue Jays vs Laurel River Bandits
12 pm McDonald Field: Greenbelt Reds vs Laurel Orioles

SUNDAY, JUNE 4

Greenbelt Museum Tours, 1 - 3 pm, 10B Crescent Road

In honor of Greenbelt Day, the Greenbelt Museum's historic house will be open free of charge for mini tours! Walk through the house which features furniture designed by the federal government to fit Greenbelt homes, artifacts, and objects used by a middle-class family during the years 1937 - 1952, hands on items for kids, and much more. For more information, visit www.greenbeltmuseum.org.

Greenbelt Concert Band, 3 pm, Community Center Gym

Come celebrate Greenbelt's birthday with live music provided by members of your community band!

Artful Afternoon: Paint Out Picnic, 11 am - 1 pm, Community Center

Experience outdoor painting and drawing on the front lawn of the Greenbelt Community Center. No experience needed; all levels welcome. Bring your own materials or use ours! Please sign- up in advance; walk-in guests welcome. Visit www.greenbeltmtd.gov/arts.

GREENBRIAR PRESERVE CLEANUP

SATURDAY JUNE 3, 10 AM - 1 PM DORA KENNEDY FRENCH IMMERSION SCHOOL

Be part of the community effort to clean up around the Greenbelt Forest Preserve's Greenbriar Tract. Volunteers will work with Public Works staff and members of the Forest Preserve Advisory Board to pick up litter from the preserve.

Register by email at kdriscoll@greenbeltmtd.gov.

REGIONAL POLLINATOR RESOURCE FESTIVAL JUNE 17, 1 - 4 PM, UNIVERSITY OF MARYLAND COLLEGE PARK

UMD Bee Campus USA is bringing together regional Bee City USA affiliates to kickoff National Pollinator Week for their first annual Pollinator Resource Festival which includes a film screening of "My Garden of a Thousand Bees." Email s_dewalt@hotmail.com for more information.

FREE PRODUCE DISTRIBUTION

JUNE 15 TWO EVENTS/LOCATIONS

Community Center: 1 - 3 pm

Springhill Lake Recreation Center: 12 - 1:30 pm, registration required. For Greenbelt West residents only; must live in: Verde at Greenbelt Station, Greenbelt Station Master Association, Franklin Park, Motiva. Register by emailing bgarcia@greenbeltmtd.gov.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED FOR PRODUCE DISTRIBUTION AT BOTH SPRINGHILL LAKE RECREATION CENTER AND GREENBELT COMMUNITY CENTER

Volunteers are needed every third Thursday of the month at the Spring Hill Lake Recreation Center & the Greenbelt Community Center. Volunteers will assist with setting up tables, sorting and organizing fresh fruits and vegetables, and distributing them to families in need.

Springhill Lake Recreation Center Volunteers - For information, contact Katherine Farzin (240) 524-2019. To register, please use the link: <https://forms.gle/pT9MGViWGbznmCU6>.

Greenbelt Community Center Volunteers - For more information, contact Flora Li (301) 412-2480.

GREENBELT RECREATION'S SUMMER ACTIVITY GUIDE www.greenbeltmtd.gov/activityguide

Registration is open for Greenbelt residents,.
Registration opens at 10 am on May 30 for non-residents.

PRIDE FLAG RAISING CEREMONY 4 PM, MUNICIPAL BUILDING

Join members of the Greenbelt City Council and residents of your community for a Pride flag raising ceremony to kick off Pride month.

SENIOR PROPERTY TAX CREDIT

Effective fiscal year* beginning July 1, 2023, Prince George's County will provide up to a 20% credit of the County portion of the property tax bill, inclusive of any Homeowners and Homestead Credit (total max of 20%), for up to 5 years.



Visit www.greenbeltmtd.gov/news

CURRENT FREE CARES PROGRAMS

BACK TO SCHOOL FAMILY HEALTH FAIR

August 22, 10 am - 3 pm
Sign-up required. Contact Brendy Garcia at (240) 424-0302 or bgarcia@greenbeltmtd.gov

EMERGENCY DIAPER PROGRAM

Supporting Greenbelt families in need of diapers. Greenbelt residents only, you must sign-up each month. Call (240) 542-2019.

POWERFUL TOOLS FOR CAREGIVERS

**Thursdays June 5 - July 6
6 - 7:30 pm**

Register: <https://forms.gle/K37FSEca9sK28gLW7>

HABIT SHIFT MINDSET June 5, 1 - 4 pm

This immersive and interactive program provides scientific knowledge of how habits form and ways we can learn and apply practical, relevant, and personalized strategies to replace our habits for lasting behavior change.

Register at <https://forms.gle/c9wEj48bsgMFsYPB7>.

DINING WITH DIABETES 6/21, 6/28, 7/5, 7/12

5 - 6:30 pm, Zoom

A national program designed for adults with Type 2 Diabetes. The program teaches skills needed to identify and understand important information about managing this disease.

Register at <https://rb.gy/j58gi>.

MOTIVATING LOVED ONES BY LIZ BARNETT JUNE 8, 7 - 8 PM, Zoom

Learn to incorporate practical strategies to motivate loved ones to be physically active, change their diets, clean out the closet, and much more!

Register at <https://bit.ly/3W7p4ab>.

ARTFUL AFTERNOON WORKSHOP SUNDAY, JUNE 4, 11 AM - 1 PM

Create paintings outdoors with community artist Racquel Keller.

All ages. FREE. Greenbelt Community Center front lawn

Details and sign-up: <https://bit.ly/44RKbRy>.

Letters, from p. 2

downsides:

Qualified applicants outside Greenbelt would want a higher salary to sell their home or terminate their lease.

Rejecting applicants based on residency means council may have to choose someone less-qualified as Greenbelt’s chief executive.

Finding a place to live is extremely difficult at this time, even in Greenbelt.

Many decisions are a balance of pros and cons. Referendums needlessly divide voters, promote reactionary thinking over analysis, demand freebies while refusing to pay the tab and wither in the face of implementation. We elect council to consider the whole picture, muster informed empathy by engaging residents, and balance tradeoffs.

When approached by campaigners, I couldn’t support a referendum-style approach failing to consider these concerns. I was not alone.

Our city manager directs day-to-day operations affecting 25,000+ residents and hundreds of staff and contractors through all seasons and calamities. Obviously, council should prefer a resident city manager, but are we willing to pay the cost of legally mandating residency above every other qualification?

Johanna Goderre

Opposes Weakening Petition Process

I sympathize with Peggy Higgins in her distress that

Crisis Hotline’s New Number is 988

The National Suicide Prevention Lifeline dialing code has changed, effective July 16. The new three-digit dialing code is 988 and it’s available for phone calls and text messages.

The former Lifeline phone number (1-800-273-8255) will continue to be accessible.

Calls and text messages are confidential and free.

“No matter what problems you’re dealing with, whether or not you’re thinking about suicide, if you need someone to lean on for emotional support, call the Lifeline,” the 988 Suicide & Crisis Lifeline says on its website at samhsa.gov/find-help/988.

SUMMONS AND NOTICE
STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA
COUNTY OF RICHLAND
IN THE FAMILY COURT
OF THE FIFTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT
Docket no. 21DR403843

DOMINIC WARD
Plaintiff
vs
SABRINA LLOYD,
Defendant
TO THE DEFENDANT,
YOU ARE SUMMONED to appear in the Richland County Family Court in Columbia SC, for a final Divorce Hearing on July 19, 2023 at 3.00 p.m. You are hereby notified to be present at this time. A judgement by default may be entered against you, for relief.
Dated 5/15/2023
Dominic Ward/Plaintiff

the hard work that went into collecting signatures for a referendum did not pay off. Twenty-five years ago, a small group of Greenbelters also sought to put a council decision to referendum. We, too, had only a month to collect signatures. Back then we did not have the benefit of e-mailing, texting nor Facebook to get our message across, but went door to door, evenings and weekends. If we didn’t have access to an apartment or condominium building, we hung about in the parking lots to talk to residents. We set up outside the Co-op, had a booth in Beltway Plaza and took out full-page ads in this paper, to explain why we thought the Parkside annexation was not good for the city. These efforts did pay off. We presented petitions that included 3,500 names (1,945 names made up 20 percent of registered voters at that time). The city clerk verified 2,000 of these before deciding there were enough to send the Parkside annexation to referendum. News Review issues 11/19/1998 and 12/3/1998 include this information.

I mention our 1998 efforts as one of the reasons I am opposed to weakening the requirements to send an issue to referendum. The requirements need to be onerous so that attempting to overturn council decisions through referendums is not overused. If you don’t agree with a decision, write a letter to the editor, vote council members out at the next election, run for office yourself. If a serious issue is time sensitive, and enough voters feel so strongly that they are willing to work hard to collect sufficient signatures, then meeting the current requirement is possible. As shown by our 1998 experience.

Sylvia Lewis



GHI Seeks Member Volunteers To Participate in Pilot Program

Greenbelt Homes, Inc. (GHI) is seeking members to volunteer for the Plumbing Repair and Refurbishment Pilot Program. GHI homes are aging and the life spans of the original water pipes and waste sewer pipes are reaching their end. Pipe failures are expensive, potentially very messy and can be disruptive.

The Pilot Program is designed to obtain information that GHI staff and leadership can use to structure the scope and organization of the eventual broader water and wastewater pipe replacement/refurbishment work in the majority of GHI units.

GHI asks its members to talk with their neighbors and encourage each other to participate. Currently, GHI is offering a \$500 incentive to volunteer. As a reminder, participation in the larger program will be mandatory, as this critical maintenance is not avoidable. Those who volunteer now will get their plumbing updated first while also helping GHI plan for this huge improvement to all of the homes. Details are available on the GHI website at



ARTWORK BY JOE RALBOVSKY

Joe Ralbovsky, head of the GHI Buildings Committee, sent this cartoon to get a laugh and encourage volunteers to sign up for the Pilot Program. He says it’s a Greenbelt spin on the popular Drake meme.

ghi.coop under Latest News and Alerts.

Questions can be directed to this email: BuildingsCommitteeGHI@gmail.com.

Tips to Prevent Mosquitoes

With summer weather finally arriving in Greenbelt, GreenCAPS (Greenbelt Citizens Avoiding Pesticides) has suggestions for reducing mosquito populations. Mosquitoes can smell standing water over long distances and they can squeeze through one-quarter-inch openings. Just one bottle cap of stagnant water is enough for them to breed.

Here is a checklist of many known mosquito breeding sites found in gardens: bamboo pole openings, bird

baths, buckets, cans, children’s toys, clogged gutters, corrugated downspout pipes, flower pots, garden tools, stagnant fountains, furniture, pet water bowls, planting boxes with water reservoirs at the bottom, pools not properly maintained, pop-up drain emitters, pot saucers, puddles and wet soil around leaking faucets and hoses, air-conditioning systems, rain barrels, sagging covers of any kind, tires, trash and trash cans, water catch-basins and wheelbarrows.

Check the garden for these possible mosquito-breeding sites.

Getting rid of breeding sites and reducing mosquito populations eliminate the need to use pesticides. To learn more, to support the group’s work and/or to volunteer, email GreenCAPS at GreenbeltGreenCAPS@yahoo.com.





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New Menu Choices for New Deal Café Customers

- Buttermilk Fried Chicken Tenders
- Pulled Spicy BQ Chicken Sandwich
- Fried Vegan Chick'n Sandwich



Budget 2024

Rec Director Greg Varda Praises Staff Work, Welcomes Museum

by Susan Taylor

On April 26 the Greenbelt City Council welcomed members of city staff to discuss last year’s accomplishments and the proposed budget for the Recreation Department.

Mayor Pro Tem Kristen Weaver and Councilmembers Silke Pope, Ric Gordon, Rodney Roberts and Judith Davis (Mayor Emmett Jordan was out of town) welcomed Interim City Manager Tim George, Treasurer Bertha Gaymon, Administrative Assistant Shaniya Lashley-Mullen, Greenbelt Museum Director Megan Searing Young, Museum Education and Volunteer Coordinator Sheila Maffay-Tuthill, Recreation Department Director Greg Varda, Acting Assistant Director of Recreation Facilities and Operations Andrew Phalen and Assistant Director of Recreation Programs Anne Oudemans.

Reaching

One of the significant themes in this worksession was reaching across the city and across city departments. Director Varda mentioned the efforts to reach every corner of the city with programming and the collaboration between the Recreation Department and multiple city departments in his remarks.

The Recreation Department offers programs to residents of all ages with a wide variety of interests. Many programs are free and all fee-based programs offer a deep discount to Greenbelt residents. Varda stressed the department’s commitment to providing program access to all residents. “If there’s anyone who needs some support, financial, we help.

We have the means,” he said.

Pope pointed out that residents who volunteer with an advisory board or committee receive discounted admission to the Greenbelt Aquatic & Fitness Center (GAFC). “We’re very fortunate to be living here in this city with a lot of amenities at our door,” she said.

Even in the newest residential corner of the city, Recreation staff are meeting with staff at the Motiva apartment community on Cherrywood Lane to create connections for programming. Arts Supervisor Nicole DeWald is working on a public art project there.

The department is identifying and hiring more specific inclusion staff for campers with physical and emotional disabilities. Oudemans stated, “We’re providing more training ... and partnering with CARES [for camp staff].”

The department is developing new programs for teens and tweens at the Springhill Lake Recreation Center and the Youth Center. Oudemans reported, “Our recreation centers are more popular than ever.”

While Varda applauded Oudemans for finding new spaces to accommodate senior programming, he expressed frustration that space limitations hold the department back from fulfilling their mission.

Space Frustrations

Many Maryland counties have processes to use public properties for public recreation programs during non-school hours. Prince George’s County does not. This creates complications for reach-

ing into all neighborhoods. Davis brought up the possibility of negotiating with school administrators.

Varda explained, “Everyone knows our crunch for space particularly in Greenbelt East and Greenbelt West. If we could get into schools after hours and on weekends to use their ballfields, classrooms, gyms, it would be a game changer. Howard County has a similar model for public buildings: permit them out to recreation departments.”

“We need a real park for the people in Greenbelt West. I don’t know why we keep acting like that is not an issue,” Roberts declared. “There’s still some space over there we can get.”

Council and Recreation staff discussed the possibility of increasing programming space in coordination with Franklin Park management. One of the American Rescue Plan Act projects is upgrading outdoor amenities at the Springhill Lake Recreation Center. “We’ve got a lot in the works on projects, it’s good stuff,” said Varda.

Collaborations

Recreation staff coordinate regularly with members of all of the other city departments. They work with IT on access and connectivity, with the police on security, with CARES to support persons with special needs in all areas of programming, and with Public Works on construction, renovation and maintenance, to name a few examples.

Although collaboration has existed previously, one major shift will occur officially on July 1, when the Greenbelt Museum officially joins the Recreation Department.

See VARDA, page 10

Greenbelter David Alexander Wins Tall Tales Speech Contest

by Jan Jackson

David Alexander, a longtime member of three Toastmasters clubs in the Greenbelt area, achieved a personal goal by winning the District 36 Toastmasters (DTM) Tall Tales Speech Contest on Tuesday, May 16. A Toastmaster since May 2000, he was representing the DTM Leaders Toastmasters of Greenbelt-Lanham. He is also a member of NTL Advanced Toastmasters and his home club Greenbelt Toastmasters, both of Greenbelt.

A native of Oregon, Alexander moved to Greenbelt in 1992 to take a job at the U.S. Census Bureau. He joined his first Toastmaster Club at the Census in May 2000. With an eye toward winning at the district level, he began competing in speech contests in 2001.

“I feel like I have some good stories to tell and I like to compete and that led me to entering speech contests,” Alexander said. “If I had gone to a few contests before I entered one, I might have waited a little longer because it was harder to do than I imagined. I stopped competing for a few years while I took on some leadership roles in the organization and then I started competing again in 2008. Since then, I’ve won contests in humor-



David Alexander

PHOTO COURTESY DAVID ALEXANDER

ous and inspirational speaking at the club, area and division level, but never at the district level. The type of contest that I have struggled most in has been Table Topics, which is impromptu speaking. Just to add to the fun, my winning speech was a tall-tale yarn about what I went through to avoid having to do Table Topics.”

Alexander, a cloud engineer for Accenture Federal Services, is married to Greenbelt native Rachel Turkiewicz Alexander. They have two daughters, Mairead and Clare. To see a video of his winning speech, visit greenbelt.toastmastersclubs.org.

Boxwood Village Scholarship Open

The Boxwood Village Civic Association offers an annual \$500 scholarship to a current Boxwood Village resident. It is available to graduating high school seniors and full-time (at least 12 credit hours per semester) undergraduate students. The scholarship is partially funded through the proceeds from the Boxwood booth at the Greenbelt Labor Day Festival, the annual Boxwood yard sale and other activities.

The application form should be completed and returned by June 30. A scholarship committee comprised of three Boxwood Village residents will choose this year’s recipient. For further information or to pick up an application form, email Pat McAndrew at pmcandrew@mzmlaw.net.

Toastmasters Meet

The Greenbelt Toastmasters Club invites all to join them online every first, third and fifth Wednesday of the month at 7:30 p.m. The club provides a fun and friendly environment for anyone interested in improving their public speaking and leadership skills. Learn more at greenbelt.toastmastersclubs.org.

GILLENS continued from page 1

becoming an assistant principal. She earned a master’s degree in educational leadership from Bowie State and a doctorate in education from Howard University.

Twenty-six years ago, Gillens joined Magnolia Elementary as an assistant principal, but she was appointed principal less than a year later. Magnolia teacher Christian Mullins was once a student at the school and said Gillens has had a lasting impact on his life.

“Dr. Gillens took a chance on me,” he said, speaking of his time as a student. “She poured her heart into every single person in this room. She gave opportunities to every person in this room. This community is Dr. Gillens.”

And Gillens took a chance on Mullins again many years later, when she encouraged him to substitute teach at the school and, later, to apply for an open teaching position.

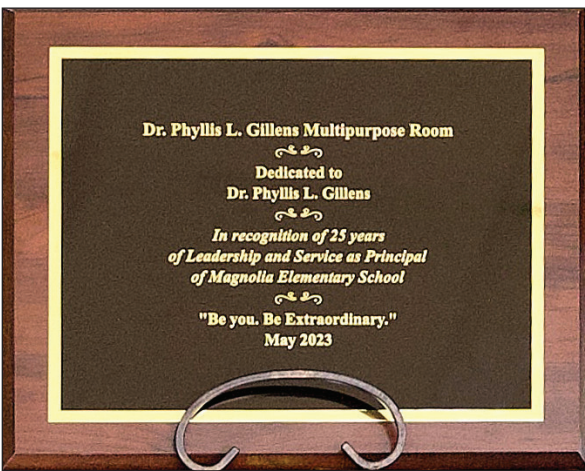
“I wouldn’t be here without her. I’m so honored and blessed to be in this room with a woman like you, Dr. Gillens. You’ve inspired me.”

Greenbelt resident Robert Allen first came to Magnolia in 1999 as a substitute teacher – just two years after Gillens joined the staff – and ended up staying with the school for 21 years, teaching mostly sixth-grade reading and language arts.

“I couldn’t have asked for a better principal. She made me become a better teacher through her encouragement, guidance and wisdom.”

School culture and community are very important to Gillens, who asked Allen to write a school song, Magnolia on Top, and, later, a school pledge, which is still recited by students and teachers daily.

In honor of her service, the Magnolia Elementary Parent Teacher Advisory Council gifted Gillens with a magnolia tree to serve as a daily reminder of her school community, and she was



Dr. Gillens’ plaque


PHOTO BY MAURICE WATKINS

gifted flowers by students all day long. The school also dedicated its multipurpose room to her, and Mayor Emmett Jordan presented her with a certificate honoring her service.

For her part, Gillens was surprised and delighted, especially to see so many of her former students and teachers, and said she was honored and grateful to have served the community at Magnolia. “Thank you for making my experience an extraordinary one.”

With her retirement, Gillens hopes to spend more time with her parents but will still be active in the Magnolia community. She also will be doing some educational consulting, coaching principals and teachers.

“For me, education is a ministry,” Gillens said. “Buy-in can create change, but when you believe in what you’re doing, that can bring forth transformation.”



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Bowie, Maryland union state [20717]

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SIMBA KINGA PROJECT TR
tiny.one/NOTICEFEESCHSIMBAKINGATR
SIMBA KINGA PROJECT TRUST
1500 Pointer Ridge Place STE 1816
Bowie, Maryland union state [20717]

NOTICE OF CLAIM is hereby given regarding the Real Property known as: 18121 Queen Anne Rd Upper Marlboro, MD [20774] www.tiny.one/NOTICEOFLIENQNRD Any party in interest shall contact the SIMBA KINGA PROJECT TRUST 1500 Pointer Ridge Place STE 1816 Bowie, Maryland union state [20717] within 30 days showing verified proof of superior claim.

NOTICE OF MANDATORY TAX EXEMPTION
www.tiny.one/amet-taxexemption
AIUKLI MEZTLI EXPRESS TRUST
2616 Chapel Lake Drive STE B-717
Gambrills, Maryland union state [21054]

NOTICE OF MANDATORY TAX EXEMPTION
www.tiny.one/aaett-taxexemption
ANGEL AIUKLI EXPRESS TRUST
18585 Coastal Hwy Unit 10 #1092
Rehoboth Beach, Delaware union state [19971]

NOTICE OF LIEN, BONDS & TR FEE SCHEDULE
SIMBA KINGA PROJECT TR
Constructive Claim in Trust
www.tiny.one/BCBondLienClaimFeeSchedule
SIMBA KINGA PROJECT TRUST
1500 Pointer Ridge Place STE 1816
Bowie, Maryland union state [20717]

Budget 2024

Treasurer Bertha Gaymon Plans For, Watches over City Money

by Susan Taylor

It’s budget approval season in Greenbelt, and Treasurer Bertha Gaymon is an incredibly busy person.

Each year the Greenbelt City Council holds multiple budget transparency work-sessions with representatives of departments within city government and organizations serving the people of Greenbelt. While there may not be the pressure for pork by lobbying professionals that politicians and staff experience at other levels of government, in Greenbelt neighbors present proposals and exert pressure to have diverse resident and community needs met.

As treasurer, Gaymon and her staff are tasked with planning and tracking revenue, while managing and following expenditures. A balanced budget is the goal, and the requirement.

Finance Department

The city treasurer directs the finance department and is responsible for the big and little pictures of the day-to-day and year-to-year financial affairs of Greenbelt. The department tracks the money the city has planned on coming in and what is planned to be spent.

According to Gaymon, finance staff are in constant communication with representatives from state, county and organizational funders to determine if there are anticipated changes in revenues that “the city may not be aware of.” Likewise, her staff are in constant communication with city departments to track any changes in spending.

Once the budget is approved “the finance department and city directors work closely to operate within their respective spending plans,” explains Gaymon. If any revenue stream changes, adjustments must be made. “All such



PHOTO COURTESY CITY OF GREENBELT

Ms. Bertha Anne Gaymon, City Treasurer

adjustments are brought before council to review and approve.”

The department manages the budget, creates comprehensive financial reports and manages an agency fund in escrow (donation assets held outside Greenbelt’s general funds). Through this charitable fund anyone can donate money to the Good Samaritan Fund, Emergency Assistance Fund, Recreation Department and for scholarships administered by the Advisory Committee on Education.

Audits

Each year the city hires an outside audit firm to track the ins and outs of how taxpayer money is spent. Annual Comprehensive Financial Reports (ACFR) are available on the city website, as are the annual budgets. While household taxpayers might flinch at the sound, audits are a regular part of each year’s financial cycle and no cause for alarm.

Debt

Unlike individuals – who may have student loans, overdraft protection and credit cards – the city borrows money for large capital

projects through bond measures that come before the voters on election day.

Greenbelt’s city charter limits the total amount of debt through bonds to 4 percent of the assessed value of city-owned real estate. At the start of Fiscal Year 2024, the estimated outstanding debt stands at only 0.35 percent.

The most recent bond issue came before Greenbelt voters in 2020, approving the funding for the Greenbelt Lake dam repair.

Gaymon’s team also refinances outstanding debt as often as possible to lower the interest rates paid. Recently debt from the 2001 bond issue was lowered from 2.93 percent to 0.85 percent.

Training, Experience

Gaymon has abundant education and over 30 years of experience in financial management. She has worked in state and local governments and with a range of nonprofit organizations from the National Commission on Children to D.C.’s Business Improvement District Corporation, where Gaymon increased staff retention, augmented revenue collection and maintained her track record of clean audit rankings.

Gaymon humbly admits to the complexity of her job and to her skills and experience, saying, “Most jobs in the financial management arena require a constant and detailed review of planned and unplanned activities and the associated costs, regular communication of vital financial information, problem solving skills in addition to training and education. I am grateful I possess the qualifications.”



Seniors Enjoy Tour of Amish Country

by Amina Khalifa

A lot of ladies, a few gents and my grandson AZ and I gathered at the Greenbelt Library parking lot at 7:30 a.m. on Wednesday, May 17, for a senior bus tour of Amish Country sponsored by Greenbelt Therapeutic Recreation. We all loaded on the bus and off we went for a two-and-a-half-hour trip to Lancaster, Penn. We were met by Paul S., our tour guide. For the next hour, he took us to an Amish classroom and a model home where we were able to see how they lived. Everyday life, work, school and faith were explained. I didn’t know that a blue gate meant there was an eligible bachelorette.

After that, we saw a movie. It was really nicely put together, with different screens and even sound effects – a cannon with smoke coming out!

We walked by some horses and AZ took a photo of a mother and her foal.

Then we ate a hearty meal – we were so full, quite a few of us slept on the ride back.



PHOTO BY AMINA KHALIFA

Greenbelters visit an Amish classroom.



PHOTO BY AZ KHALIFA

A mare and foal graze in an Amish field.

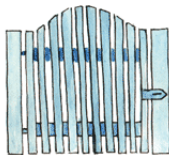


PHOTO BY AMINA KHALIFA

Budget 2024

City Council Worksession Focuses On Greenbelt Contribution Groups

by Susan Taylor

A significant slice of civic life in Greenbelt is covered under the “miscellaneous” category of the annual city budget. Organizations that receive contributions, grants and recognition for their offerings to the residents of Greenbelt were represented during the April 3 Greenbelt City Council work-session.

Mayor Emmett Jordan and Councilmembers Kristen Weaver, Rodney Roberts, Ric Gordon, Judith Davis and Colin Byrd (Silke Pope was on leave) met with Interim City Manager Tim George, Nora Hart, development director of the Metropolitan Washington Ear, and Frank Gervasi of the Greenbelt Refugee Aid Committee.

Grants

The miscellaneous portion of the city budget is divided among grantees, contribution groups and advisory boards and committees.

Three organizations – Greenbelt Intergenerational Volunteer Exchange Service (GIVES), Meals on Wheels and the Metropolitan Washington Ear – comprise the majority of funds allocated under grants. Jordan has advocated for an additional \$1,500 to be available for emergency grants for Fiscal Year 2024 (FY24), which would bring the total grant to \$9,000. Davis also asked for an additional line to purchase electric leaf blowers for the city.

Washington Ear

The Metropolitan Washington Ear provides access to national and local news (including the Washington Post and the News Review) to people with blindness, low vision and physical disabilities. Hart thanked the city for its “longtime support.” The Ear has requested \$1,000 for FY24.

In Fiscal Year 2023 (FY23) residents accessed the Ear by radio, telephone, webcast and Alexa devices. Radio broadcasts are available 24 hours a day. The Ear also provides personal “look-up services” and describes live theater.

Greenbelt residents have been using these services for as long as 22 years, relying on over 300 volunteers reading and describing. Hart explained, “Our listeners rely on an immense amount of information that these volunteers provide.” The Ear strives to offer access to “local information that people can’t really get anywhere else.”

George and councilmembers discussed the possibility of including the quarterly City Connector, other city publications and local homeowner association publications.

Advisory Groups

Many residents with expertise commit themselves to serving as topic advisors to council. Interested residents are encouraged to apply to serve in this manner.

In FY23, seven such boards received funding, from the Arts Advisory Board at \$1,000 to the Advisory Committee on Education at \$18,000. New to this year’s advisory boards and committees’ budget is a proposed \$30,000 for the Reparations Commission.

Jordan also asked for a flexible amount (he proposed \$1,500) for the “good ideas” that come up from these committees during the year. The total allocation for this category would be around \$60,000.

Contribution Groups

Jordan explained that contribution groups “are a way that the City of Greenbelt invests taxpayer dollars back into organizations that are doing good work in the community.” These groups apply for grant monies annually.

The Contribution Grant Approval Group allocates funding by reviewing applications. Weaver suggested that the approval process move from once a year to twice a year or more to “accommodate things that come up . . . ideas that people don’t have” around the current February timeline.

In FY23, nine groups were funded including sporting and arts organizations, from swim coaches (\$8,000) to the New Deal Café (\$2,800), from Boys and Girls Club (\$12,000) to the Greenbelt Arts Center (\$34,300).

For FY24, \$80,010 is proposed. The SPACE Free Art For All is being included for the first time in this category (it had previously received some emergency funding) and has requested \$4,900.

Groups that fall under the category of Recognition Groups are provided with physical resources, such as meeting space. Davis pointed out that groups must be recognized for more than a year before applying for contribution funds.



PHOTO BY BARBARA BJANES

Brown-belted bumble bee

Budget 2024

Planning Department Reviews \$1.4 Million Budget with Council

by Diane Oberg

The Department of Planning and Community Development is a 10-member staff with a budget of \$1.4 million in Interim City Manager Timothy George’s proposed budget for Fiscal Year 2024 (FY24), an increase of 11.5 percent over the current fiscal year. George budgeted \$496,900 for planning, to be partially offset by \$1,500 in development review fees. He proposed \$908,600 for community development to be completely offset by \$954,600 in fees including street permits, license and permit fees, non-residential alarm fees, municipal infraction fines and false alarm fees. The Greenbelt City Council reviewed this budget at a May 15 worksession.

Fee Increase

The department is proposing to increase some permit and license fees including rental licenses and fees for decks, fences, mechanical, sprinklers and alarms and electrical work. An increase is also proposed for daycare licenses. A list of the proposed changes is available on the city’s website in the agenda packet for this meeting.

Responsibilities

The department’s planning responsibilities include overseeing all physical development in the city by reviewing development proposals, as well as proposed legislation and zoning changes for their impact on Greenbelt, and coordinating and managing capital projects, among others. Its community development responsibilities include the enforcement of housing, building, sediment control and construction codes. It is also responsible for burglar alarm licensing and enforcing the handbill and noise ordinances.

Staffing

The department has two authorized assistant director positions, although both have been vacant for several years. For much of that time the positions were unfunded. Director of Planning and Community Development Terri Hruby has recently hired Jamie Fearer as assistant director for planning but said they have not been able to attract qualified applicants for the other position. Hruby is revising the job description to attract more applicants. She and Fearer are also working to fill the vacant community planner position.

Community Development is fully staffed, save the assistant director, with one supervisory inspector, three inspectors and two administrative assistants. The third inspector, added in the current fiscal year’s budget, has allowed the department to meet its goal of inspecting 100 percent of all apartment complexes

except Franklin Park. They have set a goal of inspecting 40 to 50 percent of Franklin Park units in FY24.

Automation

The department has several automation projects planned. Hruby will be looking to American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds for some of these. One is to provide inspectors with in-vehicle computers and printers similar to what police officers use so that inspectors will be able to generate reports and notices in the field, rather than returning to the office to produce and print them. In addition, the department plans to increase its use of electronic records.

Jane Apartments

Councilmember Rodney Roberts reported that he has been receiving constant complaints about trash and rats at the trash enclosure for the Jane Apartments on Parkway. He objected to their using an outdoor enclosure rather than the trash rooms used elsewhere in the city. Supervisory Inspector Gilberto Cabrera said he is in touch with the regional property manager and that the trash problem has been resolved and the company is bringing in a pest control service.

Evictions

Hruby noted that the city is getting little compliance with the requirement for apartment owners to report evictions to the city. However, she said that the city can do little to enforce this requirement if the tenants affected do not report the eviction as the city does not receive any information from the courts on evictions.

Hikers and Bikers

The department has developed plans for several ARPA-funded projects including bus stop safety and accessibility, pedestrian safety and bicycle projects. The next

step, per Hruby, is to develop a spending plan for council approval. The Washington Metropolitan Area Transportation Authority (WMATA) has granted the city 30-year access to the property for the long-discussed WMATA Trail, and staff is preparing to resubmit plans and bid documents to the state seeking a Transportation Assistance Program (TAP) grant. Staff is also working with the county to provide wayfinding signs to direct residents and visitors to various destinations in Greenbelt.

Humps and Bumps

Staff is also working on a priority list for traffic calming including speed bumps and humps. Hruby said that council will see those devices as part of a request for additional ARPA funding.

Gateway Sign

The long-awaited replacement for the broken Gateway sign on Southway is currently being fabricated and staff is working to schedule installation.

Program Open Space

Hruby expects the county to allocate \$294,000 to Greenbelt in Program Open Space (POS) funds. The county is changing how these and future POS funds will be managed in response to concerns that the state may take back unspent funds. Instead of providing municipalities with their allocated funds, the funds will be retained in a central pot until needed, similar to how other counties handle their POS funds.



Attainable Goals for Greater Racial Equity in Greenbelt

by Melissa Sites

Two dozen change makers gathered in the sunlight outside Springhill Lake Recreation Center for the third annual Bridging Communities for Racial Equity on Sunday, May 21, with the theme of Breaking Barriers, Building Bridges.

City Councilmember Ric Gordon introduced Greenbelt’s new Diversity Equity and Inclusion officer, Tyra Smith. Smith spoke about her hopes and plans for building greater diversity, equity and inclusion in Greenbelt over the next two years.

Lois Rosado spoke about the importance of commemorating George Floyd’s death with efforts to achieve greater racial justice in Greenbelt. Rosado said, “Our young people need our help to build bridges throughout our communities and organizations. All people should be protected, feel safe and be treated with honor and respect. We want to honor George Floyd by sparking concrete change as we plan, build, develop and govern our cities.”

Nirvan Sengupta, event moderator, challenged the folks who were present to dream big and think up “actionable items” that the coalition could present to Smith. Sengupta offered a “big dream” of a walkable pathway to cross Kenilworth and the Beltway interchange, uniting the Springhill Lake section of Greenbelt with the Old Greenbelt section. Mayor Emmett Jordan mentioned that he had heard in the past that Greenbelt was intentionally divided by major highways as a pushback against the cooperative nature of the city, because anti-“red” factions did not want it to grow. Rosado added, “Everyone

needs to fight, because when a city is 50 percent Black,” oppressive structures are pushed on the city.

The larger group broke into six smaller groups to present their dreams and ideas, including: better sidewalks and safer bike paths along major roads in Greenbelt; a streetcar to run along Greenbelt Road from Greenway Center to Greenbelt Station; better avenues of communication and publicity uniting various parts of the city; making Roosevelt Center feel welcoming to people of color; better publicity for all Greenbelt events (not just in Old Greenbelt); reckoning with Greenbelt’s history of segregation, including at the Greenbelt Museum; recognizing and increasing support for organizations such as Random Unselfish Acts of Kindness (RUAK), CHEARS and The SPACE: Free Art For All that serve all of Greenbelt.

The event was sponsored by a broad coalition, including Greenbelt Racial Equity Alliance, Connecting Across Greenbelt, Bahá’í of Greenbelt, CHEARS, Greenbelt Interfaith Leadership Association, Greenbelt Voices Rising, Prince George’s Peace and Justice Coalition, RUAK and The SPACE: Free Art For All.



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Can you smell the lilac?

PHOTO BY SUSAN TAYLOR

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Budget 2024

Budget Approval on June 5
With Minimal Changes Likely

by Diane Oberg

On Monday, June 5 the Greenbelt City Council is expected to adopt the budget for Fiscal Year 2024, which starts July 1. Based upon the discussions at the final budget worksession on May 24, the adopted budget appears likely to reflect only minor changes to that proposed by Interim City Manager Timothy George, in addition to staff updates and corrections that increase revenues by \$186,300 and expenditures by \$122,711 in an approximately \$36 million budget. That results in an excess of revenues over expenditures of \$142,000. As a result, council will probably add \$100,000 in expenditures for a total of \$36.041 million vs. revenues of \$36.083 million.

Proposed Changes

Council reviewed the list of councilmember-proposed changes discussed during the various budget worksessions. A majority agreed to add \$12,500 for a council retreat after the fall election, \$5,000 to purchase electric leaf blowers and other hand tools in advance of the existing equipment's replacement schedule, an additional \$10,000 for street tree planting (25 trees at \$400 each in addition to the 50 trees already included in the city manager's proposed budget), and \$7,500 for improvement to one of the city's three historic cemeteries including interpretive signage.

More Contentious

There was more contention over several other items. The largest was Mayor Emmett Jordan's request for \$30,000 to pay for contracted legislative support to assist in the tracking of county and state legislation. He noted that Riverdale Park, Laurel, Bowie and other local jurisdictions have contractors tracking legislative bills.

Councilmember Judith Davis raised the possibility that not being on top of state and county legislation could cost the city money, as it had done at least once in the past. Councilmember Rodney Roberts opposed the addition of this item. The remaining councilmembers (except for Councilmember Colin Byrd, who had stopped participating remotely by this point) appeared to support it, with Councilmembers Kristen Weaver and Silke Pope specifically calling for exploring if the cost could be shared with other jurisdictions before undertaking a Greenbelt-only approach.

Refugee Assistance

Close behind in cost was the Greenbelt Refugee Assistance Committee's (GRACe) request for a \$25,000 grant to cover the rent on two apartments for Ukrainian refugees. The group is already assisting one family and has a second needing assistance. Frank Gervasi, of GRACe, said that aside from rent the group will cover all other expenses. Bill Jones, of GRACe, said they are reluctant to add support for the second family, which they have already identified, based solely on funds they can raise.

Pope was cautious. While she would like to support the request, she was concerned about whether it was appropriate to rent apartments. While GRACe is working to be considered under the contributions group process, Weaver

said that program does not seem appropriate as GRACe's work does not have a wide effect on Greenbelters, as is normal for a group recognized by the city for this program. Roberts suggested using the funds requested for legislative support.

Jordan saw this request as something to be handled using the discretionary grant program, but other councilmembers objected as it would essentially deplete the fund. Davis supported a one-time grant not specifically targeted at rental costs. Councilmember Ric Gordon agreed. Pope also expressed concern about the precedent this would set: what will the city do when the next group comes forward, she asked. It appears likely that council will add a one-time grant of \$20,000 with the group required to account for how it spent the funds.

The net result, if these changes are approved on June 5, would add \$100,000 to the updated proposed budget bringing the total to \$36 million.

Meditation Classes
Offered via Zoom

Do you sometimes pressure yourself to do more, do it more quickly or feel you aren't doing it well enough? Having trouble falling asleep, having stress-related problems or feeling anxious? Ever wondered if meditation might be beneficial for you?

Katrina Boverman, a longtime meditation instructor with the SAGE program, and the Mishkan Torah Synagogue Sisterhood have quietly offered Summer Guided Meditation classes to Greenbelters and others for the past eight years. Although the synagogue itself is a wonderful peaceful setting welcoming to all, meditation this year will be offered via Zoom to attend from the comfort of home.

Attendees have expressed quieting of their bodies, minds and spirits, a deepening of inner stillness and a better ability to reconnect with themselves. They have described feeling more peaceful, serene, relaxed, mindful and present, both during and in between the classes. Common experiences outside of the class for participants have been to have greater ease falling asleep and more patience during challenging times.

Classes begin Monday, June 5 from 3:45 to 4:45 p.m., running for seven sessions, held every other Monday through August 28. There is no charge; donations are welcome.

For more information email Katrinaboverman@yahoo.com or call 301-641-1035.

The Bus

Seniors and Customers with Disabilities RIDE FREE

Jackson Tuthill Wins 2023
David Craig Scholarship

by Doug Mangum

On May 5, the Board of Directors of the David Craig Memorial Scholarship Fund (DCMSF) selected Jackson David Tuthill as their 37th recipient.

The scholarship began in 1986 after the tragic death of David Craig in February 1984. David was a 1979 graduate of Eleanor Roosevelt High School (ERHS) and a 1983 graduate of Frostburg State University. His family established a memorial to their beloved son and brother. David was a magnanimous character and well-rounded personality.

The award, initially a \$1,000 award, now pays out \$12,000 (\$3,000 each year for four years). Over the years, generous donors have permitted the fund to increase in value. The fund is a Maryland state nonprofit 501(c)(3) organization based in Greenbelt, which was David Craig's hometown.

Scholarship applications are judged in eight areas: sports or recreation, academics, school activities, community activities, faith activities, special awards, letters of recommendation and uniqueness. David Craig exemplified all these areas with a larger-than-life personality and was a friend to all.

Jackson Tuthill

Jackson Tuthill is from the Lakeside neighborhood of Greenbelt, as David Craig was and he is strongly rooted in family and Greenbelt, as is his mother, who is also Greenbelt-grown.

Tuthill has served on the Greenbelt's Youth Advisory Council, volunteered with the Greenbelt Museum and has helped with the Greenbelt Pumpkin Festival and walk.

Tuthill's faith is nurtured by participation at the St. Hugh's Parish where he devotes himself to daily prayer and plays his violin for religious ceremonies. He also enjoys playing during open mic nights at the New Deal Café.

His love for music won him a place as the first violinist in the top orchestra, the chamber orchestra, at Eleanor Roosevelt High School. He is interested



PHOTO BY DAVID TUTHILL

On May 16, Jackson David Tuthill, left, and his mother Shelia Maffay-Tuthill, second from left, receive the David Craig Scholarship for 2023. Doug Mangum, Gary Hibbs, Mary Heaney Goodenough and Anne Oudemans were on hand to help with the check.

in Japanese language and culture and plans to continue studying them when attending Ohio University with the hope of studying abroad during future semesters.

Tuthill enjoys the outdoors and is a biking and hiking enthusiast and still finds time to play baseball for his Greenbelt team. He has a goal of working in cybersecurity for his country and excels in multiple languages: French, Japanese and English. On the ERHS VEX Robotics team – a state championship team – he performs programming, engineering and design tasks. Tuthill will no doubt reach his goals. His accomplishments, confidence and hard work and his own words are what swayed the scholarship committee members to select him as this year's choice.

"I'm a good student who cares about my community and the world," said Tuthill. "I want to make a positive impact through hard work and dedication and I want to serve my country by making our most sensitive communications secure. I love languages and I speak fluent French and very good Japanese and I plan to continue language studies in college. I'm a passionate violinist and I plan to continue with my music. I've been invited to audition for two orchestras post high school. I'm a nature

lover and appreciate wildlife, especially enjoying birdwatching. I hike and bicycle and I'm looking forward to the beautiful Appalachian woodlands in Athens, Ohio, where Ohio University is located."

These statements identified Jackson as a determined and self-guided young person who has David Craig-like qualities of hopeful possibilities and a deep sense of purpose to do good.

Tuthill says his priorities, in order, are: God, family, country, self.

On Tuesday, May 23 at the Senior Awards Ceremony, he was recognized and celebrated again in front of his peers as he received his check.

Congratulations to Jackson David Tuthill, 2023 ERHS graduate and DCMSF winner.

Doug Mangum is president of the David Craig Memorial Scholarship Fund.



PHOTO BY PRESTIGE PHOTOGRAPHY

Jackson Tuthill

VARDA continued from page 7

Merger

The transition of the Greenbelt Museum into the Recreation Department is "a win-win for the Greenbelt community as a whole," states Varda. He and Searing Young have been meeting to "figure out how we can provide additional support and talk about new programming for the Museum and the Recreation Department." They both spoke about cross-training staff, the possibilities of a history camp and the benefits to the community for broadening Museum programming and space.

Searing Young excitedly shared that "the Maryland General Assembly has awarded the Museum \$100,000 in grant funds for the 10-A project." The public face of the capital campaign to renovate the house next to the Museum as a welcome center, staff offices, archival storage and research facility will begin soon.

Core Values

The Recreation Department

budget proposal states, "Our employees are our most important resource." It goes on to list the core values of the department: creativity, ingenuity, respect, safety, learning and trust.

Varda spoke of the journey out of the pandemic and back into "face-to-face connections with the community and building relationships with the community." He said that increasing numbers of participants show the "need for what we do."

He described his staff as possessing "commitment, passion, resilience and empathy." And that due to the challenges of the pandemic, "I think we became a better department."

Varda pointed to the innovations of programming and staffing at the GAFC. Director Stephen Parks has hired retirees as lifeguards to work with folks as young as 16. "That intergenerational connectedness is good stuff. Credit to the aquatic staff."

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Greenbelt Farmers Market

Sundays 10a - 2p
Southway and Centerway

GreenbeltFarmersMarket.org

Police Blotter

Incidents reported here occurred May 22 - 28. Readers are encouraged to contact the police if they have information that may aid in an inquiry. Call the non-emergency number 301-474-7200 or email pd@greenbeltnmd.gov. Note that the times provided are when the incidents were

Assault
On May 23 at 11:38 p.m. near 7500 Greenbelt Road, a 37-year-old man was arrested for first- and second-degree assault after threatening employees of a restaurant.

DUI Arrest
May 27 at 1:12 a.m. near Greenbelt Road and Cunningham Drive.

Fraud
The following types of fraud occurred: May 23 near 9000 Breezewood Terrace, gift card and wire fraud; May 25 near 100 Julian Court, gift card fraud; May 26 near 6600 Lake Park Drive, check fraud; and May 27 near 6200 Springhill Drive, identity theft.

Missing Persons
16-year-old Jamay Isaiah Parker (Black male 5'10", 130 lbs) was last seen on May 27 at approximately 12:32 p.m. in the 6003 block of Cherrywood Court, wearing a black hooded sweatshirt, dark gray sweatpants, black Nike boots, and carrying a gray book bag. If you see this person, please contact the Greenbelt Police Department.

Robberies
On May 22 around 5:23 p.m., officers responded to an armed robbery in the 6100 block of Breezewood Court. The suspect is described as a Black male with a blue shirt and blue jeans armed with a black handgun. No injuries were reported.

On May 24 at 10:32 p.m., officers responded to the 5900 block of Cherrywood Terrace for the report of an armed robbery. The victim reported two males (unknown age) robbed the victim at gunpoint and took the victim's Dyna Glo Grill.

Theft
On May 28 at 4:55 a.m. near 6400 Ivy Lane, personal property was stolen after it was dropped in the parking lot.

Shoplifting occurred on May 22 at 7:25 p.m. near 7400 Greenbelt Road, and at 10:17 a.m. near 100 Centerway; on May 24 at 11:15 a.m. near 7500 Greenbelt Road; on May 25 at 3:48 p.m. near 7500 Greenbelt Road; and on May 27 at 2:59 p.m. near 6100 Greenbelt Road.

Vandalism
On May 23 near 7900 Vanity Fair Drive, a glass door was shattered by a rock. On May 24 near 6000 Greenbelt Road, two dumpsters were set on fire; surrounding buildings were unharmed. On May 27 near 7200 Hanover Drive, hotel property was damaged during a fight.

Vehicle Crimes
Stolen Vehicles
Nine vehicles were stolen,

including three Kias and three Hyundai Sonatas: On May 22 near 7700 Hanover Parkway, a brown Sonata (MD plate: 9DA9175); on May 23, near 7500 Greenway Center Drive, a 2019 Kia Sorento (MD plate: 5EC2077), near 7400 Greenway Center Drive, a 2004 white Chevy Trailblazer (MD plate: 9ET0211), and near 6000 Cherrywood Court, a 2021 Kia Forte (MD plate: T1344298); on May 24 near 6900 Greenbelt Road, a green Kia Soul (MD plate: 9CA7953). On May 25 near 7900 Good Luck Road, a burgundy 2016 Toyota Highlander (MD plate: 36001CJ) was stolen after it was left unattended and unlocked with the key in the ignition. On May 27 near 9300 Edmonston Road, a 2013 blue Sonata (MD plate: 1AX5914), and near 9100 Edmonston Road, a 2014 Sonata (MD plate: 8EE4681); and on May 28 near 8200 Canning Terrace, a 2017 Toyota RAV4 (MD plate: 2DB2528).

Attempted Vehicle Theft, Vehicles Found

On May 23 near 5700 Greenbelt Metro Drive, a stolen car was found with ignition damage and impounded. On May 23 near Southway, a car was found with a broken window and damaged steering column, and was impounded. On May 24 near 9100 Edmonston Court, a 2009 Ford E250 was found with a broken door lock and damaged ignition. On May 26 near 7900 Candlewood Place, a stolen Kia was found with a broken window and damaged ignition. On May 28 near 100 Westway, a Hyundai Sonata was found with front end damage, a broken window and damaged ignition. On May 28 near Westway, a white 2018 Hyundai Sonata was found with a window broken and ignition damaged.

Theft From Auto
Catalytic converters were stolen from nine cars this week: On May 22 from a 2001 Honda Accord near Ridge Road, a 2006 Toyota Prius near 100 Northway and a 2003 Toyota Prius near Gardenway; on May 24 from a 2001 Honda Accord near 6700 Springshire Way, a 1999 Honda Accord near 7800 Somerset Court and a 2008 Toyota Prius near 8000 Craddock Road; on May 25 from a 2009 Toyota Prius near 7800 Somerset Court and a 2003 Honda Odyssey near Lakeside Drive; and on May 28 from a 2001 Honda Accord near Ridge Road and Westway.

On May 23, all four tires were stolen from a 2021 Toyota Corolla near 9100 Edmonston Road,

from a 2023 Toyota Camry near 5800 Cherrywood Lane and from a Honda Civic near 5900 Cherrywood Lane; and on May 24 near 100 Westway, from a Honda Civic.

On May 22 near Ridge Road a car window was broken; near 7200 Hanover Drive, a car window was broken, the car was rummaged through, but nothing of value taken; near 7400 Greenway Center Drive, two cars in the parking lot had windows broken; near 300 Golden Triangle Drive, a window was broken and a disability placard stolen and two other cars in the lot had broken windows; and near 6200 Springhill Court, the rear windshield was broken and property stolen. On May 24 near 6200 Breezewood Drive, a trunk was pried open and tools were stolen. On May 24 near 8000 Greenbelt Station Parkway, five cars in the parking lot had windows broken.

On May 25 near 7810 Walker Drive, a car window was broken and the car rummaged through. On May 24 near 9000 Breezewood Terrace and on May 26 near 9100 Springhill Lane, property was stolen from a vehicle with no sign of forced entry. On May 27 near 6100 Greenbelt Road and near 6000 Greenbelt Road, car windows were broken and property was stolen.

Speak Up, Loud Workshop Engages, Empowers Youth

On Saturday, May 20, the anti-racist organization Together We Can sponsored the Speak Up, Speak Out and Speak Loud Youth Workshop at Greenbelt Youth Center. State's Attorney Aisha Braveboy, Prince George's County Sheriff John Carr, Mayor Emmett Jordan and members of

the Greenbelt Police Department and District Heights Police Department were among those attending.

Members of law enforcement had the opportunity to engage with youth, basketball was played and pizza was served.



From left, Mayor Emmett Jordan, Together We Can CEO Jeannette Brandon, Prince George's County Sheriff John Carr and Councilmember Ric Gordon attend the Speak Up workshop.



Youth, mentors, councilmembers and police play basketball.



BUSINESS IMPROVEMENT & RECOVERY FUND

ROUND III



APPLICATION LAUNCHES APRIL 17
APPLICATION DEADLINE JUNE 16



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ABOUT

The Greenbelt Business Improvement Recovery Fund Round III, offers financial assistance to local small businesses impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic. This grant supports capacity building efforts, along with certain operating expenses related to business interruption, improvements and continuity. Applicants must meet eligibility guidelines and provide evidence of financial impact due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

AWARD AMOUNT:

Maximum award amount is \$30,000.
Minimum award amount is \$20,000.
No match is required.

APPLICATION PERIOD:

April 17 - June 16.

ELIGIBLE USES:

Examples of eligible expenses include

- Advertising / Marketing
- Business Planning
- Capacity-Building / Organizational Development
- Information Security / Technology
- Online / Website Development or Improvements
- Professional / Workforce Development
- Technical Assistance
- Other (Rent, Utilities, etc.)

INELIGIBLE USES:

- Capital & Façade Improvements (Please see Capital Improvement Recovery Fund)
- Debt / Loan Repayments
- Property Maintenance / Construction Work
- Staff Compensation

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BAG BAN continued from page 1

to the city rather than a charge that goes to the establishment. The 10-cent charge for paper bags proposed by Greenbelt’s ordinance will go to the business and will help offset the increased cost of the paper bags.

Gordon then withdrew his proposed amendment to decrease the charge saying he would defer to the experts who had studied it. He proposed instead that the city provide free reusable bags.

Konrad Herling of the Lions Club said that group was already working on giving away reusable bags. Resident Lore Rosenthal commented that the Sierra Club is very scientific and has counted plastic bag usage at grocery stores and compared before and after counts to assess the effects of 5-cent and 10-cent charges and that’s how 10 cents was decided upon.

A Motion to Delay

Councilmember Judith Davis was in favor of the direction of the policy but believed the ordinance was not yet ready. She wanted further consideration of the cost and the scope and greater public education about the ordinance. She suggested delaying a vote on this ordinance until they could have another worksession and public hearing.

John Lippert, chair of Green ACES, said that the cost was set at 10 cents after studies of varying cost levels and determining what price point will change people’s attitudes and behavior. “The 10 cents is needed to make sure that people bring the reusable bag,” he said. “We’ve been working on this for years,” said Green ACES member Jane Young, who spoke emphatically and was dismayed by Davis’s suggestion of further study and hearings. She noted that another worksession and more delays would set the process back and postpone the ordinance indefinitely after all the work that has been done. “Please pass it now. Please don’t just think of a way to delay it,” she implored. Sustainability Coordinator Luisa Robles said that this ordinance has been in process for a long time, close to 14 years and other counties and cities have had them in place for a decade.

Weaver noted that the proposed effective date is January 1, 2024, which will provide time to work out any details and to conduct an education campaign.

Mayor Emmett Jordan expressed his desire to see it move forward but also wanted to be in compliance with neighboring jurisdictions and make sure that Greenbelt’s ordinance is compatible with what’s happening in the county.

Greenbelt resident Ben Fischler, who participated in the meeting online, said he believes it’s important for Greenbelt to



Brandon Mahoney of Maryland Restaurant Association speaks against the plastic bag ordinance.

pass its bill in order to motivate the county.

Reusable Bags Plentiful

Councilmember Colin Byrd, speaking via Zoom, said he would support the city giving out reusable bags. There are some people like Lippert and Young who are excited to see it move forward, he said, but there’s another group that’s going to be very surprised by it and free bags from the city could help decrease the negative shock factor. Byrd suggested free reusable bags be offered at recreation centers, including Springhill Lake and Schrom Hills, and not just in the city center, and raised the possibility of mailing them to residents.

Resident Michael Hartman noted that the city gives out reusable bags and reusable water bottles regularly. He suggested a children’s contest for designing the city bags and some research into the best reusable bags.

Robles said the city has been engaged in education about “bring your own bag.” Green ACES and Public Works have been giving free bags at the Labor Day Festival, she noted, and the Green Team was educating residents at the recent Greenman Festival.

Restaurants Oppose

Brandon Mahoney of the Maryland Restaurant Association spoke against the ordinance, calling it “confusing” and suggesting it would negatively impact drive-through restaurants and dining restaurants that provide “doggy bags.” Weaver, however, suggested “doggy bags” might not be impacted because they are no longer at the point of sale. Resident Kathleen Bartolomeo suggested there could be education to encourage people to bring a container when they go out to restaurants.

Vote

Jordan repeatedly stressed his preference for a county ordinance and even a state law rather than a patchwork of ordinances. Yet,



Bill Orleans speaks at the city council meeting.

- Photos by Anna Bedford-Dillow

he said he would support the ordinance and hoped it could be a catalyst to move county legislation along, though he reiterated the need for uniformity.

Davis, however, said she believed there needed to be “another go at this.” She foresaw plenty of amendments and more worksessions or items in coming months because details hadn’t been worked out, she claimed. Businesses are going to start clamoring because they only sell soup and it’s greasy and dripping and will get all over someone’s car in a paper bag and they’ll get sued, Davis suggested. “I’m not an anti-green person,” she stressed as she explained her concerns.

The ordinance was approved with six ayes and one nay from Davis.

Sorority Sisters Support Greenbelt’s Pink Pantry



PHOTO BY PSI EPSILON OMEGA CHAPTER OF ALPHA KAPPA ALPHA SORORITY

PEO members Monique Lamar, President Benita A. Swindell and Marsha Mims-Word coordinate the collection of period products for Greenbelt’s Pink Pantry.

In partnership with Pearl Elegance Foundation, Inc., Psi Epsilon Omega Chapter of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority is addressing mental health and self-care issues for women in minority communities.

On Saturday, May 20, Psi Epsilon Omega hosted a forum, Pink Table Green Talk, that focused on self-care matters for women. The discussion, held at the South Bowie Library, was centered around the theme I Am My Sisters’ Keeper and highlighted various topics, including women’s empowerment, mental health and wellness, spirituality and balancing life while remaining true to oneself. Participants brought feminine products to donate in support of Greenbelt’s Pink Pantry initiative.

“We know that period poverty and being able to afford period products is a major issue for women and girls from low resource communities,” said Benita A. Swindell, Psi Epsilon Omega president. “We hope to continue providing support and making change that will have a widespread and long-lasting impact on women in the communities we serve.”

The Pink Pantry provides feminine products to income-qualified Greenbelt residents. This program is committed to addressing various self-care stigmas and helping empower girls and women to care for their bodies. Psi Epsilon Omega donated more than 1,000 items to support the women of Greenbelt and the Pink Pantry.

BUSINESS CAPITAL INFRASTRUCTURE GRANT PROGRAM



APPLICATION LAUNCHES: MAY 3
APPLICATION DEADLINE: JULY 3



ABOUT

The Greenbelt Business Capital Infrastructure (GBCI) Grant program offers financial assistance to local small businesses and property owners impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic. This grant supports business recovery efforts related to business interruption, improvements and continuity. Applicants must meet eligibility guidelines and provide evidence of financial impact due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

ELIGIBLE USES

Examples of eligible expenses include

- Exterior / Interior Components and Fixtures
- Façade Improvements
- Facility / Technological Upgrades
- Equipment
- Interior Alteration / Expansion
- Architectural, Engineering, Planning, or Permitting Fees

AWARD AMOUNT:

Maximum award amount is \$50,000.
No match is required.

APPLICATION PERIOD:

May 3 - July 3. Sixty (60) days from launch date.

INELIGIBLE USES

- Business Operating Expenses
- Building Foundations
- Landscaping / Hardscaping
- Debt / Loan Repayments

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PHOTO BY ANNA BEDFORD-DILLOW

A turtle swimming in the Lake.

ARPA continued from page 1

Nonprofit Food Assistance.

Concerns

Primary among the concerns at the recent meeting was the lower-than-hoped-for number of applicants for the grants. Several had extended deadlines, reported Sandlin, including the Education Scholarship Grant, which received 22 applications in the first round and an additional seven in the second round, which has a new deadline in June.

The Greenbelt First-Time Homebuyers Mortgage Assistance Grant and the GHI First-Time Homebuyers Mortgage Assistance Grant, both of which are for amounts up to \$15,000, have each received only one application. The applications for those close at the end of this calendar year. The Workforce Development Scholarship Program which is for up to \$10,000 and has a rolling deadline has received only one application. Tree Canopy Grants for \$750 to \$7,000 have a deadline of June 19 and have received only two applications. Micro Grants with an extended deadline of June 16 and allocation of \$500 to \$1,000 have received only two applications. Greenbelt Business Capital Infrastructure Fund for awards up to \$50,000 and a deadline of July 3 have received only three.

Mayor Emmett Jordan asked why the city doesn't make all the deadlines rolling ones until funds are depleted. Councilmember Kristen Weaver believed it was good to be able to review applications all at once if there were more than could be funded. Yet, Jordan feared a long lag time between application and review or a passed deadline might be a deterrent.

Councilmember Judith Davis was concerned that there was little interest in some of the programs, even though "we hear that there's a great need out there." If the money is not expended it will have to be spent quickly at the end of the period before Congress claims it back, Davis noted. All funds must be allocated by December 2024 or they will be lost.

Jordan said that though the programs could be impactful some things were holding people back from applying, particularly with microgrants. He suggested reallocations of money to programs where there is demand at the start of the fall. Weaver suggested creating a packet to hand to people interested in applying. She also recommended getting the information to other outlets that people may be paying attention to if they don't follow the City of Greenbelt website.

Sandlin said for the programs with deadlines they had to consider that volunteers weren't always available so that they could have rolling deadlines and the volunteers reviewing the applications needed to know the time expectation. She noted that the first-time homebuyer grants might be underutilized because there wasn't enough inventory in the City of Greenbelt within the income parameters established and that residents are under leases that they can't afford to break before they expire.

SAM.gov

Interim City Manager Tim George said the requirement for a SAM.gov number has deterred people and businesses, even though it only takes a few minutes to sign up. George said

businesses don't necessarily understand the SAM.gov process and there is some distrust of government. However, the SAM.gov numbers are a federal requirement that Greenbelt can't waive. They are trying to work with businesses to help them through that process.

Davis said she thought a lot of people believe the ARPA money is only to go with service projects and helping people with rent and so forth. "[S]ome of this ARPA money [is] going to replace aging infrastructure or other important needs that the city and its residents need and if we didn't use ARPA money for that ... would cause an increase in taxes ... This was a one-time shot. ... I doubt very seriously if we will ever get that big an amount of money again," said Davis.

Trees

Weaver pointed out that the trees grant in particular asks for an organization name and tax-exempt number and the form could be changed to "organization or individual" and "tax-exempt number if applicable." Individuals can apply and the instructions reflect that but the form is off-putting, noted Weaver.

Sandlin said the city has partnered with the Greenbelt Community Development Corporation (GCDC) to work with individuals. Applications go to the city where they will be voted on. The city will then provide the GCDC with the list of names and how much they've been approved for and the GCDC will manage the process, provide reports and assign a SAM.gov number.

George said people are deadline oriented and the deadlines should not be extended, but he believed there should be second rounds so that those who have applied will receive decisions faster. Jordan believed the education grant applications were a direct response to outreach to schools with the extended deadline and would like to see more outreach.

Businesses and individual residents can access information and applications for the open ARPA grants at engagegreenbelt.org/grants.

Community Orchestra Seeks Musicians

A community orchestra is starting in Greenbelt in July. Violins, violas and double basses are still especially needed. For more information, contact Anne Gardner at annegreenbelt@gmail.com or visit greenbeltorchestra.org.

Yarn and Darn Meets Wednesdays

Knitters, crocheters, embroiderers, rug hookers, seamsters et al., bring your portable fiber arts to the Community Center to chat and socialize while working on individual projects.

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Email alarsen@greenbeltnmd.gov for more information.



Council Discusses Plastic Bags, Meeting Hiatus, Pesticides, More

by Deb Daniel

Greenbelt City Council met on May 22 to hold a public hearing on the budget and the constant yield tax rate (see the May 25 issue), and heard from a number of residents regarding the proposed changes to the Greenbelt city charter, a report on the use of American Rescue Plan Act funds (see page 1 of this issue) and other administrative reports. New legislation on disposable plastic bags was introduced and approved. (See separate story.)

Petition Comments

Greenbelt residents voiced their opinions about the coming charter amendment. Peggy Higgins spoke about the petition she'd worked on to stop the removal of the residency requirement for the city manager, which she said was overwhelmingly supported by those she approached. She presented it to council with 814 signatures from residents, far short of the required 20 percent of registered voters. (Higgins shared her experience with the petition process in the May 25 News Review.)

Resident Richard Ransom told council he supported the removal of the residency requirement but he was concerned that council could change the city's charter with a simple majority (in the recent case with a single vote). Ransom used the example of council being able to change the name of the city with just four votes if they wished.

Public Hearing

Several people spoke against council maintaining the same tax rate of 0.8275/\$100 of assessed valuation despite increases in assessed home values and ongoing inflation. The constant yield tax rate would be 0.7949. For more on the public hearing see the article in the May 25 News Review.

Meeting Hiatus

Council's standing rules already allow for a single regular meeting in July, on the second Monday of the month rather than both the second and fourth Mondays as in most months. Council discussed extending that policy to include not scheduling any worksessions during the last two weeks of July (unless an emergency arises) which would allow for a break and scheduling of vacations for both councilmembers and relevant city staff.

Councilmembers Judith Davis and Kristen Weaver discussed that this proposed schedule was not permanent policy. Davis further emphasized that the eliminated worksessions delay work to be done further into the future. Weaver and Councilmember Ric Gordon emphasized that council-

members are often working when not in formal council meetings: visiting Greenbelt locations, reading required documents, attending Maryland Municipal League (MML) sessions, etc. Councilmember Rodney Roberts felt meetings were important and part of the defined job of a councilmember. Councilmember Silke Pope thought having a summer break would benefit city workers as well as councilmembers. Mayor Emmett Jordan was concerned that necessary work and decisions would not be discussed in public with a shortened work-session schedule.

The proposed schedule was approved with two nays (Jordan, Roberts) and one absentee (Councilmember Colin Byrd).

Pesticide Use

A bill before Congress, H.R. 7266, includes the following language that would prohibit local governments from adopting pesticide laws that are more protective than federal rules as part of the 2023 Farm Bill:

"LOCAL REGULATION PROHIBITED – A political subdivision of a State shall not impose, or continue in effect, any requirement relating to the sale, distribution, labeling, application, or use of any pesticide or device subject to regulation by a State pursuant to this section or by the Administrator under this Act."

While Greenbelt's current Sustainable Land Care Policy primarily references use of pesticides on city property, if the language in H.R. 7266 is passed, it could preempt Greenbelt from making wider rules regarding pesticide use in the future should it wish to do so. A letter for local officials to sign is available.

Administrative Reports

Interim City Manager Timothy George noted that the city is implementing digital time sheets as part of the new financial management system. George also noted the promotion of Tim White to deputy chief of the police department.

Jordan noted that council had received little information on the pending legislation on recreational marijuana.

Council approved the purchase of 10 Panasonic Toughbook FZ-55 computers for police mobile computers at a total cost of \$32,870. Council approved \$38,101 for the tennis court resurfacing project. Council approved the purchase of mechanical installation/HVAC equipment for the Youth Center for a total project cost of \$108,974. Council approved Mahan Rykiel Associates (MRA) to be awarded the Buddy Attick Park Master Plan project not to exceed \$49,970.

Food Rescue Group Needs Volunteers

Prince George's County Food Equity Council (pgfec.org) has collaborated with Food Rescue US to try and prevent food waste and take surplus food from restaurants, grocery stores or farmers markets and deliver it to public food banks and soup kitchens in the county. One such "rescue" is located right here in Greenbelt, our local Farmers Market, scheduled each Sunday from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. until mid-November. Two volunteers with two cars will show up around 1:45 p.m. and will check in with farmers and vendors to see if they would be willing/able at the close of the market to donate surplus food to a church-run food bank in Laurel. Volunteers will bring cardboard boxes to collect food, then drive for 15 minutes up to Laurel to drop off collected food to church staff, who will keep that food in cold storage until ready to distribute to those in need. If interested, one of the local Food Rescue volunteers, Joe Robbins (robbins629@gmail.com), is happy to answer any questions. Sign up at the following website: bit.ly/pgcfr_signup. The group's motto is Be the Rescue.



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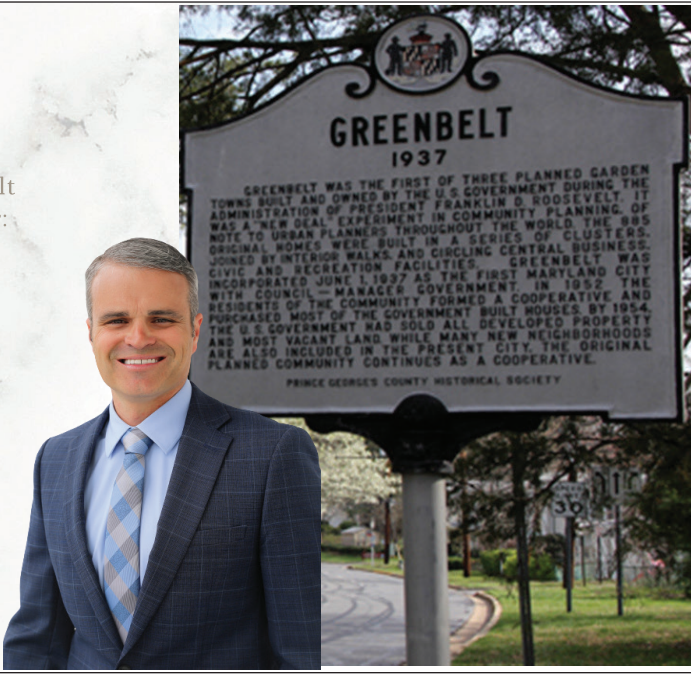


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Sports

Spring Sports at ERHS Lead To Many Victories; End in Losses

by Patrick Gleason

The spring sports season at Eleanor Roosevelt High School (ERHS) ended with difficult losses but will be remembered for four region championships – and four victories over arch rival Bowie along the way. Both the boys and girls lacrosse teams as well as the baseball and softball teams produced successful spring seasons.

The girls teams dominated all season, with both the lacrosse and softball squads only losing against out-of-county competition. The girls lacrosse team coasted through county competition as they earned a league, county and region championship trophy behind an offense catalyzed by freshman Isabelle Becraft and seniors Julia Beckmann and Larissa Olson. Becraft tallied 35 goals, followed by Olson’s 34 and 28 from Beckmann. The Raiders defeated CMIT North 15-4 on May 8 for the county title before falling to North County in the state quarterfinals.

Softball
Likewise, the softball squad set the county standard behind senior shortstop – and Delaware State University commit – Stephanie Osuji. The Lady Raiders defeated Bowie for the region title on May 17 with a command-

ing 17-0 victory. Sophomore Natalia Jarquin flummoxed opponents with her pitch arsenal all spring while Osuji paced Roosevelt’s productive offense. The Lady Raiders fell to the Broadneck Bruins, 5-1 on May 20 in the state quarterfinals.

Boys Lacrosse
While the boys lacrosse team suffered county losses during the regular season, they earned three heart-stopping victories that will energize them through the offseason. The Raiders defeated Bowie in the regular season and playoffs – both overtime victories after tightly contested matches. After their triple overtime playoff triumph over the Bulldogs, the Raiders avenged their regular season loss to the county champion C.H. Flowers Jaguars with a one-goal victory for the region championship on May 19.

Baseball
Finally, the ERHS baseball diamond saw an eventful spring capped by an extra-inning victory over Bowie, earning the team the region championship. Senior Shane Murphy, who will play at University of Maryland, Baltimore County next spring, led the Raiders on the mound and at the plate all season.

After Murphy pitched the Raiders to a 4-0 playoff victory over Flowers, the Raiders turned to junior A.J. Bender, who pitched a solid game against the Bulldogs. Murphy still contributed, offering a run-scoring triple en route to their 8-5 victory. During the May 19 state quarterfinal against Laurel High School, the teams exchanged blows, but the Raiders ultimately fell short. Still, a spring with four region championships offers a plethora of memories for Roosevelt athletes, fans and coaches to cherish – and motivation for the fall sports teams, which will begin their summer workouts the week of June 12.

Call for Sports News
Do you have Greenbelt sports news to share?
We welcome your photos and stories at editor@greenbeltnewsreview.com.



Junior Luis Arias talks with assistant coach Lawrence Richmond during their May 13 victory over the Flowers Jaguars.

- Photos by Vanessa van der Have



The ERHS softball team celebrates senior Stephanie Osuji’s hit during their senior night victory over the DuVal Tigers.



The ERHS Girls lacrosse team celebrates a 10-5 region championship victory over the Bowie Bulldogs on May 15.

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Memorial Day

Greenbelt Ceremony Honors Those Who Died in Service

by Butch Hicks



Organizational representatives present wreaths during the Memorial Day Ceremony: from right, close to flag: Greg Gigliotti, Commander, American Legion Post 136; Greenbelt Police officers PFC A. Leathery and Officer Skibicki; Jim Harbaugh, Sons of the American Legion, Squadron 136; Kathy Reynolds, Greenbelt American Legion Auxiliary Unit 136; and Kristen Weaver, Greenbelt Councilmember.

Greenbelters joined America on May 29 celebrating the unofficial first weekend of summer – swimming pools opening, and backyard cookouts with hot dogs, hamburgers, corn on the cob and shrimp-loaded grills serving summer sizzlers. The Greenbelt community also joined other American communities recognizing May 29 as Memorial Day – a federal holiday that honors the bravery, courage and honor of our troops who died while serving in the U.S. military. It originated in the years following the Civil War and became an official federal holiday in 1971.

Dodging potential weather issues, this year’s annual Memorial Day salute moved from Greenbelt Center’s War Memorial to American Legion Post 136’s Hofberg Hall. There, Post 136, Greenbelt, county and state leaders shared, with approximately 150 guests, their thoughts about Memorial Day honoring through remembering those veterans who died in the line of duty. Elie Wiesel, Nobel laureate and Holocaust survivor, said, “Without memory, there is no culture. Without memory there would be no civilization, no future.” This could also be applied to honoring those who served our nation and are no longer with us.

Mayor Emmett Jordan acknowledged the solemn occasion and gave his Memorial Day Proclamation which asked that men and women be remembered who gave their lives in service to our country: honor them with prayers for peace, remain compassionate and supportive of those serving tours of duty, honor those from our own community who served as indicated at the War Memorial, as well as all others who have lost their lives. In summary, he said his Memorial Day proclamation was intended to “express deep gratitude to the women and men who have given their lives in the service of the United States of America; to remember, not just this day but every day, the ultimate sacrifice they made so that we may enjoy peace, prosperity and the freedoms we all cherish.”

The relevancy of having a Memorial Day was exemplified by a story on Memorial Day web pages. Army PFC Luther Herschel Story died in the Korean

war and his body was found 73 years later. In the meantime, he had been awarded the Medal of Honor, the nation’s highest military honor. His actions as described in the award showed soldiers of the 9th Infantry Regiment made a desperate retreat as North Korean troops closed in around them. A wounded Story feared his injuries would slow down his company, so he stayed behind to cover their withdrawal. But Story was never seen alive again, and his resting place long remained a mystery. “In my family, we always believed that he would never be found,” said Judy Wade, Story’s niece and closest surviving relative.

His resting place was identified in April when the U.S. military revealed lab tests had matched DNA from his sister and her late mother to bones of an unidentified American soldier recovered from Korea in October 1950. The remains belonged to Story. He was buried with full military honors May 29, 2023, in a national cemetery near his hometown of Americus, Ga. He had not been forgotten.

County Councilmember Ingrid Watson (District 4), making her first appearance at the American Legion’s and Greenbelt’s Memorial Day ceremony, said, “We should honor those who died in service to our country and cherish their friends and family members.” State Delegate (District 22) Anne Healey said her appreciation of Memorial Day began with her family members who served in the military. Healey said modern medicine on the battlefield saves more lives and extends recovery time until healing or dying. She said, “But they served, and we remember their service.” She also shared that Maryland Governor Wes Moore cared deeply about veterans and Memorial Day honoring those who died. Moore has also addressed end care for spouses and dependents those veterans leave behind. He signed a bill for the Department of Veterans Affairs stating that eligible spouses and dependents of a veteran may be buried in a state veterans’ cemetery without charge.

In his Memorial Day ceremony comments, Post 136 Commander, and Army veteran, Greg Gigliotti said that it is important

to remember those who served no matter how much time has passed – be it yesterday, last year, or decades ago. Pascal Poolaw, a member of the Kiowa native American nation, served in WWII, received the Purple Heart recognizing his combat wounds and the Silver Star for combat bravery; then in Korea, for actions in combat, he was awarded two more Silver Stars and a battlefield commission. He retired in 1962 after a 20-year Army career. When his three sons joined the Army and were sent to Vietnam, Poolaw felt compelled to enlist once again. He sacrificed his commission to serve as a senior non-commissioned officer in combat. When a squad he was leading was ambushed, he was attempting to pull one of his wounded soldiers to safety, before succumbing to his own wounds. Then First Sergeant Pascal Poolaw, a veteran of three wars was posthumously awarded a fourth Silver Star and third Purple Heart.

“The men and women who died for our freedom represent the diverse patchwork that is the United States of America,” Gigliotti said. “They were from cities, farms and suburbs. They came from every ethnicity, background and political spectrum. They looked like any one of us. When politicians debate the cost of veterans’ benefits, we should remember the price already paid not just by the fallen heroes but by veterans and grieving family members. This is the true cost of war.” Gigliotti said that after all the remembrances were shared, a saying known to Memorial Day and Veterans Day ceremonies came to mind. “Our flag doesn’t fly because the wind moves it, but because of the last breath of each soldier who died protecting it.”



- Photos by Butch Hicks



Mayor Jordan presents the Memorial Day Proclamation to Greg Gigliotti, Commander Greenbelt American Legion Post 136; Jim Harbaugh, Sons of the American Legion, Squadron 136; and Sandi Dutton, American Legion Auxiliary Unit 136.



Greenbelt residents Robert Snyder, member of Sons of the American Legion, Squadron 136, attends the event with his mother, Jean, who is 101 and turns 102 in August. Her late husband was in the 82nd Airborne during World War II.



County Councilmember Ingrid Watson (4th Council District) presents a county Memorial Day Proclamation to Greg Gigliotti, Greenbelt American Legion Post 136 commander.